

PROPOSALS

Made by His late HIGHNESS the

PRINCE of ORANGE,

To their HIGH MIGHTINESSES the

STATES-GENERAL,

AND TO THE

STATES of HOLLAND

AND

WEST FRIEZLAND,

For redressing and amending the Trade
of the REPUBLICK.

Translated out of *Low Dutch*, from the Original,
printed at the *Hague*, by Authority.



L O N D O N :

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EXTRACT

FROM THE

Register of Resolutions of their High
Mightinesses the STATES-GENERAL
of the UNITED NETHERLANDS.

Friday, 27 August 1751.



IS Highness having represented to the Assembly, That ever since his Accession to the Stadtholdership of these Countries, he has had nothing more at Heart, than (under the Blessing of Almighty God) to assist, in restoring to the Republick, its former flourishing Condition; delivered it as his Opinion, That the most effectual Means hereto, was to put Trade, which is one of the principal Supports thereof, upon a better Footing.

That, as nothing had given his Highness more Anxiety, on the one hand, than to hear the daily Complaints of a Decay of Trade in these Countries, and the considerable Progress and Advance which others make therein; so,

on the other, he desired nothing more than to contribute something, that might tend to retrieve the Commerce of the Republick.

That his Highness had already, to that End, for a considerable Time past, left no Stone unturn'd, in his Inquiries after the most skilful and experienced Merchants; who might properly inform him, as well, in what Condition, Trade is at present, as suggest to him the best Means, for re-establishing the same.

That he had happily succeeded in this Attempt, and those Gentlemen had, with great Affiduity, applied themselves to the Management of this momentous Trust: But that the Difficulties arising from a due Discharge of so arduous and extensive a Province, had prevented its being so soon executed as the Importance of the Affair requir'd.

That his Highness now had the Satisfaction, to deliver to their High Mightinesses, the annexed Dissertation, on the Trade of the Republick of the *United Netherlands*, which had been previously put into his Hands; wherein he found such Reflections and Ideas, as well on the present Situation of the Trade of this State, as on the Means that ought especially to be made use of to redress the same, that his Highness thought proper to present it to their High Mightinesses.

That his Highness, in the said Dissertation, had met with a Proposal for a Free Port, in regard to such Goods and Merchandizes, as are the Source of Trade in general; and also for a considerable

considerable Diminution of the Duties on every Branch of Commerce, which his Highness considered, as the only Means to revive Trade in these Countries, and put the Merchants in a Condition to deal with others, at least, on an equal Footing, and draw the same into these Parts.

That the same appearing to his Highness, to be no less desirable and advantageous for the Trade of the Republick, than useful and necessary for the Support of the State; and having found the said Plan or Dissertation so well calculated and adapted to the present Crisis of Affairs, he could no longer defer the recommending it to their joint Deliberations, in the most pressing and pathetick Terms; and at the same Time earnestly desire them with a Spirit of Unanimity, and all possible Dispatch, to give such a due Attention to, and draw such salutary Reflections from the Whole, as the Importance of the Subject, and a Necessity for redressing and amending so general a Decay of Trade, calls for and requires.

That in Confidence of the Confederate States being fully persuaded of the same, his Highness doubts not but they will speedily conform thereto; and, by setting aside all sinister and private Views, from a sole Regard to the publick Interest, take such wholesome Resolutions, as may give his Highness the desired Proofs, that his Zeal and Application herein, tending to the Good of the whole Community, has not been disagreeable to their High Mightinesses.

That

That his Highness wishing these Deliberations may be brought to a happy Issue, from considering this Affair to be of such weighty Consequence, that the Safety and Well-being of the State, under God, depends on the Preservation and Recovery of Trade, has the greatest Reason to expect and hope, that, agreeably to his Request, not only all Prejudices should be removed, and all Inconveniences and Difficulties still subsisting, set aside; but also, that some speedy Resolution should be entered into, for the Good of the Republick, in order to put in Execution the new concerted Measures, in the Commencement of the succeeding Year.

On which, having deliberated, their High Mightinesses return his Highness their sincere and hearty Thanks, for his Care and particular Attention, to the Welfare of this State, and the trading Inhabitants thereof; and his unwearied Zeal and Application, in tracing the Causes of the Decay, and proposing the Means of a Redress, and recovering the Trade thereof.

And further, it is ordered, that Copies of the above-mentioned Proposal, and of the Dissertation thereto annexed, be sent to the respective Colleges of the Admiralty; and it be signified to them in Writing, at the same Time, That under the Direction of his Highness, as Admiral-General of these Countries, they do narrowly examine the said Dissertation, and maturely weigh the Articles therein proposed, for a Redress and Amendment of Trade, carefully collating each Article; in order to frame
from

from thence, such Drafts of Placarts, Rules and Lists, as they shall judge will be most conducive to the aforesaid salutary Design of his Highness; and, in an after Conference, with the Deputies of their High Mightinesses, acquaint them with the Result of their Consultations; that on Report being made thereof, their High Mightinesses may make such Orders relating thereto, as shall be found most for the Service of the Country, and the Benefit of the trading Inhabitants of the same.

That, previous to the Result of the said Consultations so expected, the said Proposal of his Highness, and the Dissertation thereto annexed, shall be printed; and some Copies thereof sent to the States of the respective Provinces; earnestly recommending such Attention to be given, and such Reflexions to be made by them on the same, as the Importance of the Subject, and the Necessity of the said Amendment, and Redress of Trade, brought to so low an Ebb, require; to the end, that when the Deliberations thereon, are brought to Maturity, a speedy Resolution may be taken on the same, with that mutual Harmony and Condescension, as shall evidence them to be divested of all Prejudices and partial Prepossessions arising from personal Concerns and Self-interested Views.

Here

Here, let the Dissertation on Trade, the Lifts *A*, *B*, *C*, and the Draught of an Ordinance be inserted.

Agrees with the Register aforesaid.

The said Proposal was likewise made the same Day, by his Highness, in the Assembly of their High Mightinesses, the States of *Holland* and *West Friezland*, and a like Resolution taken thereupon.

DISSER-

DISSERTATION *on the* TRADE
of the Republick of the UNITED
 NETHERLANDS.

HIS Highness having nothing more at Heart, than the Preservation and Welfare of the Trade of this Republick, hath thought proper to order, that some eminent and experienced Merchants should be consulted on this Affair; in order to enable His Highness, as far as in him lay, to contribute towards this Fountain of the Prosperity and Riches of the *United Netherlands*, whose Considerations and Advice should chiefly turn on the following Questions.

1. What is the actual State of the Trade? and if the same should be found to be diminished and fallen to decay; then,

2. To inquire by what Methods the same may be supported and advanced; or, if possible, be restored to it's former Lustre, Repute and Dignity?

In Obedience to these respectable Orders of His Highness, some Merchants have been accordingly consulted; and tho' in some particular Instances, they have not been of the same Joint Opinion, and have sometimes disagreed in their respective Definitions, yet an entire Concurrence has been found in the general, as to their Sentiments and Argumentations upon the first Question.

B

I. What

1. What is the State of our Trade ?

That for the Term of twenty-five Years and upwards, the same is remarkably diminished, and in many Branches lost. As to the second Question,

2. By what Methods the same may be supported and promoted ?

That the same, in the present Circumstances, could only be effected with any tolerable Hopes of Success, by a Diminution of the Duties on Goods imported and exported, particularly the latter, and the Impost on them ; which renders the transporting of foreign Goods and Merchandize through this Country difficult and expensive ; whereby such Merchandizes being conveyed through another Channel, must consequently put our Neighbours in a Condition to undersell our Merchants at foreign Markets.

It is acknowledged, that the bare Allegation of the Merchants consisting in this, *That the Trade of the Republick is diminished*, is no sufficient Proof of the Argument, tho' back'd with an Appeal to their own Experience.

But when we examine this Affair to the Bottom, and attentively reflect on all the Circumstances, which in former Times had, and still have relation to Trade ; and endeavour, more particularly, to discover the Means, whereby the Trade and Commerce of the Republick was then established, and afterwards became flourishing ; as also, how remarkably the whole System of Trade in *Europe* has been since altered ;

tered; we are well assured, that this Representation will not only add a great Weight to the said Allegation of the Merchants, but will be judged equivalent to an ample Demonstration.

In order, therefore, methodically to discuss the State of the first Question, we shall begin with inquiring into, and pointing out the Causes, whereby Trade was settled and established in the Republick.

Which, it is thought, may be reduced to these three Points.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| I. To Natural and Physicall | } Causes. |
| II. To Moral | |
| III. To Adventitious and External | |

I. The natural and physicall Causes, are the advantageous Situation of the Country, on the Sea, and at the Mouth of considerable Rivers.

Its Situation between the Northern and Southern Parts, which, being in a Manner the Center of all *Europe*, made the Republick become the general Market, where the Merchants, on both Sides, used to bring their superfluous Commodities, in order to barter and exchange the same for other Goods they wanted.

Nor have the Barrenness of the Country, and the Necessities of the Natives, arising from that Cause, less contributed, to set them upon exerting all their Application, Industry, and utmost Stretch of Genius, to fetch from foreign Countries what they stand in need of in their own, and to support themselves by Trade.

The abundance of Fish in the neighbouring Seas, put them in a Condition, not only to supply their own Occasions, but with the Overplus, to carry on a Trade with Foreigners ; and out of the Produce of the Fishery, to find an Equivalent for what they so wanted, through the Sterility and narrow Boundaries and Extent of their own Country.

II. Amongst the moral and political Causes, are to be placed : The unalterable Maxim and fundamental Law, relating to the free Exercise of different Religions ; and always to consider this Toleration and Connivance, as the most effectual Means to draw Foreigners from adjacent Countries to settle and reside here, and so become instrumental to the peopling of these Provinces.

The constant Policy of the Republick, to make this Country a perpetual, safe, and secure Asylum, for all persecuted and oppressed Strangers ; no Alliance, no Treaty, no Regard for, or Sollicitation from any Potentate whatever has at any Time been able to weaken or destroy ; or make the State recede from protecting those who have fled to it for their own Security and Self-Preservation.

Throughout the whole Course of all the Persecutions and Oppressions, that have occur'd in other Countries, the steady Adherence of the Republick to this fundamental Law, has been the Cause, that many People have not only fled hither for Refuge, with their whole
Stock

Stock in ready Cash, and their most valuable Effects, but have also settled and established many Trades, Fabricks, Manufactures, Arts and Sciences in this Country; notwithstanding the first Materials for the said Fabricks and Manufactures were almost wholly wanting in it, and not to be procured but at a great Expence from foreign Parts.

The Constitution of our Form of Government, and the Liberty from thence accruing to the Citizens, are further Reasons, to which the Growth of Trade, and its Establishment in the Republick, may fairly be attributed: And all her Policy and Laws are put on such an equitable Footing, that neither Life, Estates, or Dignities depend on the Caprice, or arbitrary Power of any single Individual; nor is there room for any Person, who by Care, Frugality, and Diligence, has once acquired an affluent Fortune, or Estate, to fear a Deprivation of them, by any Act of Violence, Oppression, or Injustice.

The Administration of Justice in this Country, has in like Manner always been clear and impartial, and without Distinction of superior or inferior Rank; whether the Parties have been rich or poor, or even this a Foreigner, and that a Native: And it were greatly to be wished, we could at this Day boast of such impartial Quickness and Dispatch in all our legal Processes, considering how great an Influence it hath on Trade.

To

To sum up all, amongst the moral and political Causes of the former flourishing State of Trade, may be likewise placed : The Wisdom and Prudence of the Administration ; the intrepid Firmness of the Councils ; the Faithfulness with which Treaties and Engagements were wont to be fulfilled and ratified ; and particularly the Care and Caution practised to preserve Tranquility and Peace, and to decline, instead of entering on a Scene of War, merely to gratify the ambitious Views of gaining fruitless or imaginary Conquests.

By these moral and political Maxims, was the Glory and Reputation of the Republick so far spread ; and Foreigners animated to place so great a Confidence on the steady Determinations of a State so wisely and so prudently conducted ; that a Concourse of them stock'd this Country with an Augmentation of Inhabitants, and useful Hands ; whereby its Trade and Opulence were constantly from Time to Time increased.

Amongst the adventitious and external Causes of the Rise and flourishing State of our Trade, may be reckoned :

That at the Time, when the best and wisest Maxims were adopted in the Republick, to be the Means of making Trade to flourish, they were neglected in almost all other Countries ; and any one, on reading the History of those Times, may easily discover, that the Persecutions on account of Religion, throughout *Spain, Brabant, Flanders*, and many other States and Kingdoms,

have given Rise to the Establishment of Trade in the Republick.

To this happy Event, and the Settling of Manufactures in our Country; the long Continuance of the Civil Wars in *France*, which were afterwards carried on in *Germany* and *England*, and divers other Parts; have also very much contributed.

It must be added, in the last Place, that, during our most burthenfome and heavy Wars with *Spain* and *Portugal* (however ruinous that Period was for Commerce otherways) these Powers had both neglected their Navy; whilst the Republick, by a Conduct, directly the reverse, was at the same Time formidable, and in a Capacity, not only to protect the Trade of their own Subjects, but to annoy and crush that of their Enemies in all Quarters.

Having recited the principal Causes of the Rise, and flourishing State of the Republick; it will be proper, antecedent to the treating of the first Question: *What the actual State of Commerce is?* To examine which of these Causes, relating to the Settlement of Trade in the Republick, do still subsist, and which do not, in order to draw a Conclusion on the Question proposed: By what Means, under the present Circumstances, the Trade, in all its Branches, may be promoted?

I. As to the natural and physical Causes, which chiefly consist in the happy Situation of our Country, no detrimental Change or Revolution

lution can be supposed to have happened since the Establishment of the Republick; and no other, but these, can be supposed to have occurred, *viz.* That the Entrance of our Rivers being choaked up, renders the sailing in and out of Vessels more difficult and hazardous; and that the Seas, which we alone formerly navigated and fished in, are still in the same Situation: But we have at present only a Share in the Fisheries, from whence the Decay of our Herring, Cod, and Whale Fisheries, must necessarily proceed.

But as, in this Dissertation, our Design is to confine ourselves to Trade only, we shall drop the Fishery, with this short Digression, and only mention, in regard

II. To the moral Causes of the Rise and flourishing State of our Trade, that they are still subsisting in an equal Force and Vigour. But as to

III. The adventitious and external Causes of the former Prosperity of our Trade, we must, with a very sensible Concern, acknowledge, that they have, from Time to Time, undergone very remarkable and detrimental Changes and Revolutions, partly owing to the Persecutions of the Times, the Remissness and Neglect, and partly, to the despicable Opinions, that People in foreign Countries then had, both of Trade and Merchants; which Prejudices have not only been corrected and abated since, but the Policy
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of the Republick, in promoting Trade, substituted and adopted: And it has ever since become the standing Rule, with all foreign Princes and States; to begin, with endeavouring to cause Trade to be settled and flourish in their Countries, to encourage Manufactures, and to animate their Subjects to apply themselves to the Fisheries; by all which Methods, the Prosperity of our Trade and Commerce must have been affected.

The *English* were the first, in whom we raised an Emulation: And it is now a full Century from the Time of their beginning to make new Laws and Regulations, tending to the drawing off the Trade of the Republick to themselves; in Opposition to a contrary Policy, practised not half a Century before, in suffering the Wool to be exported raw into this Country, but since prohibited under the severest Penalties. We might here add the latter Examples of almost all other Countries, whose general Views, with regard to Trade and Commerce, and all the Dependences thereof, have tended to the very same Practice.

And if the Question, Whether the Trade of the Republick is deminished or not? must remain undecided, for want of sufficient Proof; it is, however, certainly notorious, that all these Circumstances; such as, the adopting of our political Maxims in Trade by foreign Powers, and the Pains they all take, to draw the same to themselves, ought to stir us up likewise, on our Parts, to put in Execution, all suitable

Methods for that Purpose; unless we have a mind to see the Trade of the Republick entirely sink and run to Ruin.

Having thus briefly pointed out, what were the Causes and the Means of establishing the Trade in this Republick; of promoting and raising it heretofore to so high a Pitch of Grandeur; and having also shewn which of these Causes have since ceased, and brought about the Diminution and falling off of our Trade; we shall, in order to come nearer the Point, proceed to examine its present State: And the Conclusion that may be drawn from thence, is; that the promoting the same, can only be effected by a lowering of the Duties, on a well-concerted Plan, supported by Reason and Experience.

In order to come at the Extent of the present State of our Commerce, with some degree of Certainty, we ought, principally, to examine each Branch in particular, as it now stands, and compare it with the Condition, in which the same Branch has continued from the Time of its greatest Prosperity, to its present Diminution and Decay.

A great Insight into these Matters might be had, from the Registers of the Admiralties, in case proper Entries had been made, of what Goods were entred, and what Part thereof was again exported, from and to all Places, and of all Species.

By such Registers, might be discovered, the Decrease of Trade in the general; and of each Branch in particular: And these would shew its

its falling off, as well in its Beginning as in its Progress; but for want of such direct Proof, which our Neighbours have, and we have not, we are obliged to make use of indirect ones. As these are numerous, we shall, for the sake of brevity, be satisfied with producing a few; tho' the Concession made by the several Colleges of Admiralty, by their Letters to their High Mightinesses, of the 1st of *June*, 1745, ought to determine the Question, without any further Contest in favour of the Merchants Complaints; since their Noble Mightinesses themselves admit, that they have, for several Years past, perceived a Diminution in the Trade and Commerce of this Country, and have spoke of it, as a Thing generally known: Herein also, do all Merchants and Brokers, and even every Person, whose Dependance is on Trade, agree.

This Decay is visible in the chief Trading Cities of the Republick, from the considerable Number of Shops, that are empty and untenanted: To be convinced hereof, we need but appeal to those who knew *Amsterdam* five and twenty Years ago; and the Decrease and Scarcity of Sea-faring People, is another indisputable Testimony of the same.

Our Merchants set forth in their Complaints, that they formerly furnished the Northern and Eastern Parts with the Products of *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*, and these last again with those of the former; but that now they pass by this Country, in order to save our Duties on Imports and Exports, together with other Charges.

It is but a few Years since, that the City of *Amsterdam* was the Magazine or Storehouse, amongst other Goods, of Indico and other Materials used in dying; but, at present, scarce any Traces of the same are to be found.

Germany has begun, for some Years, to order the Goods directly from *France*, *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *Italy*, and receive them by the Way of *Altena* and *Hamburg*.

By the last Register of the Exports of Sugar, Coffee, and Indico from *Bordeaux*, from the 1st of *June*, 1750, to the last of *May*, 1751, and on comparing the same Commodities from *Nantz* to *Amsterdam*, *Rotterdam*, and *Hamburg*, from the 1st of *October*, 1750, to the 1st of *August*, 1751; it appears, that no more than one Fourth Part thereof was shipt for this Country, and three fourths for *Hamburg*; a Disproportion, which but a little while before was exactly the Reverse.

Where does one now see the Hemp, Flax, and other Eastern Commodities shipt off from hence to *Spain*, *Portugal*, and *France*, as formerly? One need only consult the *Sound List*, to see that all these Nations carry them directly forward, and beside this Country.

There are no *Dutch* Houses any longer now in *Spain*; and the small Share the Republick has at present in the Galleons, is a Matter of Surprise; and no less so, is the prodigious Decrease of the *Dutch* Trade to the *Levant*.

The great Number of Callico-Printers, Sugar-Houses, and other Fabricks, that within a few
Years

Years have been erected and set up in *Hamburg*, and *Bremen*, and not long since, in *Brabant*, and *Flanders*, are likewise all Proofs of our decaying Trade: And to what can this Decline be attributed, but to the exorbitant and heavy Duties.

Notwithstanding all that has been said of the Decrease of our Commerce, there are still those who insist, *That our Trade is on the same Footing now as heretofore*: And the Grounds, on which they build this Opinion, are

1. That the Impost on Goods imported and exported, the Weigh-Money, and Duties on Shipping, and on the Consumption, &c. are not diminished.

2. That the Complaints of the Merchants prove nothing, since the Profits on Trade are still much the same, but divided amongst a greater Number of Persons.

3. That the present grand Way of Living, leads the Merchants into greater Expences than our Forefathers, and gives Reason for these Complaints.

However, without entering minutely into all that is here advanced, or shifting it off by saying, that none of these Allegations are proved; we shall content ourselves with replying to the Substance of them: And as to the first Allegation of those, who argue as above, from the several Imposts on Goods imported and exported; and pretend to evince, that because these are not diminished, the Commerce of the Republick is therefore not decreased; we cannot

cannot but remark, that they must have very imperfect Ideas of Trade itself, or they would have entirely waved speaking of the Duties on the Imports, as having nothing to do in the Case. For that the Duties on Imports are no Proofs of a flourishing Trade, will appear from considering ;

What Causes are frequently introductive of an Increase of the Duties on Goods imported ?

What does the present elegant Way of Living produce, but the bringing in more high-rated foreign Commodities, and consequently an Increase of the Duties on Importation ?

What other Causes were to be assign'd for the Increase of the Revenues of the State, after the fatal Winter in 1740 ? but that in proportion, as the Produce in this Country of most of the Necessaries of Life was almost entirely ruin'd by the hard Frost ; that Want was to be remedied no other Way, than by Importations from Abroad, to supply our own Consumptions ? Yet the Republick would be scarce able to sustain many such flourishing Years.

Lastly, what, besides the calamitous Sicknefs amongst the Cattle, has increas'd the Revenues of the Country, on the Importation of foreign Butter, Cheese, and Cattle ? But whoever should impute this to an increasing Trade, would grossly deceive himself.

And who sees not, that if the Trade of the Republick once came to consist only in the Importation of foreign Goods ; instead of being advantageous, how destructive it would be, and more
and

and more consume the Substance of the State. Thus by not examining the Affair to the Bottom, one might imagine, we had a flourishing Trade; whilst we were, at the same Time, running on to Ruin. We apprehend therefore, as a Refutation of the first Argument, *That our Trade is not diminished, because the Duties on Goods imported are not decreas'd*, that it cannot be apply'd here with any Propriety, as it is nothing to the purpose, and rather proves Trade to be in a ruinous than in an advantageous Situation. And one need only read the Act of Navigation in *England*, and their Policy by Means of the Drawbacks, to find, that for above a hundred Years past, they have considered the Exportation and Sale of Goods and Merchandizes Abroad, as the only profitable and advantageous Trade of that Kingdom; and, on the contrary, left it very doubtful, whether the Importation of Goods be prejudicial or beneficial.

But the Consideration of the sundry Duties on Goods exported, is widely different: And we make no Scruple to determine, in regard to these, that in case it can be made appear they are not diminished, we will, in consequence thereof, agree, that the Trade of the Republick is still on the same Footing. But in examining these Registers of the Duties on Exportation, Regard must be had to such Years, as were subject to *Circumstances arising accidentally from foreign Causes*: As for Example, we must except the Years of the last War, declared by *England*, with *Spain*, in the Year 1739; and
by

by *France*, with *England*, in the Year 1743 ; for as these three Nations could not have any direct Dealings with each other at that Time, it being prohibited on all Sides, their Trade was carried on through this Republick ; which not only occasioned an Increase in the Export Duties, but also such a diffusive Spread of Commerce, as had a happy Influence on every Branch of Trade, and produced a general Welfare and Advantage to the Provinces : Such Years must therefore be excepted, as they prove nothing, and have no relation to the Question in Debate.

It may not be amiss, however, to remark, how much the Welfare and Prosperity of the Republick is advanced ; and to what a flourishing and happy Crisis the Means for the Support of her Inhabitants are brought, from an Encouragement given to the transporting of foreign Goods and Merchandize through these Provinces, as was the Case during those Wars. And in short, if one would define the Trade, which is advantageous to the Republick, so far as relates to Navigation, he might, with strict Justice, affirm, that the same consists alone in the buying, and afterwards exporting, of imported foreign Goods and Merchandize. It is this Trade, therefore, which must be always had in view ; countenanced, facilitated, and promoted, by all Methods of Relief, Favour, and Encouragement.

For what Advantage occurs to the Republick, from a Merchant, who lets his Goods directly pass from one foreign Country to another, without coming through their Provinces ?

What

What Profit arises to this Country, when a Merchant sends the Products of the North and East Seas, directly from thence to *French*, *Spanish*, *Portuguese*, and *Italian* Ports; and from thence back again to the same Places? Hardly any: Nay, none at all, if he embarks them in a foreign Ship, which depends upon a Circumstance merely casual. And when one further considers, that, to carry on such a Trade, there is no Necessity for his living at *Amsterdam*, or *Rotterdam*, where the Taxes are heaviest, or even in these Provinces; and that this Trade and Navigation, beside our Country, is promoted by nothing more than the Duties laid on Transportation; it is beyond all Dispute, that the transporting of Goods through this Country, which is so visibly disused, is not to be revived otherwise, than by a Lowering and Reduction of the Duties on the same.

Such Reasonings might, perhaps, give room for a Supposal, that what we hint at, is a general free Passage, which would have the desired Effect, in making Trade to flourish; but as some further Speculations and fresh Difficulties may be started, and arise on this Point; at least, a narrow Inquiry into its Influence on all Branches of Trade, our Fabricks and Manufactures; which, of itself alone, would require an extensive Dissertation; and as such a Digression would lead us too far from the Point in hand, we shall refer the treating hereof, to a Place in the Sequel, where it will be more suitable.

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It

It has been further alledged, that so far as the Produce of the Tax, entitled Last-Money, is not diminished, the same is an additional Proof, that the Trade of the Republick stands upon an equal Footing: Yet, not only as the Exception already made, touching the Years of the last Wars between *France, Spain, and England*, may be applied to this Circumstance; but over and above, as these three Nations could in those Times navigate with our Ships at less Risque and Expence than with their own; besides making use of our Ships to transport their Products; they were even obliged to sell theirs to the *Dutch*; whereby it was easily perceived, that our Shipping increased in those Years, at least one Third; and has again decreased in near the same Proportion, since the Conclusion of the Peace.

The Shipping has undoubtedly a great Connection with Trade; but in order to form proper Ideas of the same, it will be necessary to consider it in all its Branches, in this Republick: However, as this is not the proper Place to treat of the same, we shall observe thus far by the bye, *as some have endeavoured, from the Last-Money Tax, to shew, that the Trade is not decreased*, that a Country may have, or be concerned in a good deal of Shipping, without having any Trade; when it is considered, that many of the Ships made use of for transporting of Goods and Merchandizes from one foreign Place to another, and beside our Country, are not *Dutch*.

There

There is no Province of our Country, where more Owners of Smacks, Sloops, Gallies, and other such like Vessels reside, than in that of *Friezland*, without having any Trade: And therefore, it is reasonably to be concluded, that this Objection against a Decrease of Trade in the Republick, may be rejected, and esteemed of as little Weight, as the Duties on the Consumptions, which only affect the Manufactures, Fabricks, &c. and for that Reason is here entirely out of the Question.

Having thus shewn what is the State of our Trade, drawn a Conclusion from thence, that the same is diminished, and also refuted the Grounds, on which a contrary Opinion was founded, namely, that the Trade continues much on the same Footing; we may next proceed to examine the Causes of its Decay; as one may best judge from the Source of the whole, what Remedies should be applied in order to stop its Progress.

We have already taken Notice of, and placed at the Head of all the Causes, that have co-operated to the Prejudice and Discouragement of Trade, the oppressive Taxes, which have, under divers Denominations, been imposed on Trade; such as those called Convoy and Licent, additional Last and Sale Money, the Premium, Duties, Weighing-Money, &c. and it may justly be said, that it can be only attributed to these Taxes, that the Trade of this Country has been diverted out of its Channel, and transferred to our Neighbours, and must daily be still more

and more alienated and shut out from us, unless the Progress thereof be stopt by some quick and effectual Remedy: Nor is it difficult to see, from these Contemplations on the State of our Trade, that the same can be effected by no other Means than a Diminution of all Duties.

In former Times, this was reckoned the only trading Republick in *Europe*; and Foreigners were content to pay the Taxes, as well on the Goods they brought thither, as on those they came there to buy; without examining, whether they could evade or save them, by fetching the Goods from the Places where they were produced, and carrying others to the Places where they were consumed: In short, they paid the *Dutch* their Taxes with Pleasure, without any further Inquiry.

But since the last Century, the System of Trade is altered all over *Europe*: Foreign Nations seeing the wonderful Effect of our Trade, and to what an Eminence the *Dutch* had rose, only by Means thereof; they did likewise apply themselves to it; and to save our Duties, sent their superfluous Products beside our Country, to the Places where they are most consumed; and in return for the same, furnished themselves, from the first hand, with what they wanted.

The Question then at last turns upon this: By what Methods, and by what Regulations, we may best contribute to, facilitate, and advance these desired Encouragements and Benefits of Trade, which the present Circumstances of Affairs seem to require.

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If but one Point was herein to be considered, namely, what are the most proper Methods to re-establish Trade in general, without having regard, at the same Time, to other Concerns ; the Remedy would be soon found, by only introducing a general Free Port, and reducing as many Taxes as possible, whereby this Affair would be effectually compleated.

But there seems to be a Condition, ~~over~~ and above, not to be gainfayed or withstood ; which is, that the usual Revenue to the Colleges of the Admiralty, whereof they stand so much in need to defray their Charges, must be preserved at all Events. And, on the other hand, it is incumbent on us to prevent the lowering of the Duties on the Importation of Goods, from becoming any Prejudice to the Products, Manufactures, and Fabricks of the Country, our *East* and *West India* Colonies, Fisheries, &c.

Although it is an Opinion deeply rooted, that all these Matters can never be reconciled, and that it is impossible to promote Trade in general, without prejudicing the Interests above specified : Yet we trust, that upon an impartial and minute Examination, it will not be found so difficult and impracticable a Thing, as is usually imagined, to unite all these jarring Interests ; nay, we even flatter ourselves, that when the Difficulties of finding an equivalent Fund of Revenues for the Admiralties, preventing the Frauds, and bringing the publick Taxes to be raised on an equal Footing, throughout all the Provinces, were once surmounted ; the Obstacle
thrown

thrown in the Way by these repugnant and clashing Interests, would shortly be removed.

There will certainly some Circumstances intervene, that may give room for a Disagreement in Opinion : But even in such Cases, which we hope, however, will not occur so often as is apprehended ; Reason dictates, that, in these particular Instances, we should set it down as an invariable and standing Rule, *of two Evils to chuse the least* : That the Concerns of the whole Republick must be preferred to those of one Province, as well as those of one Province to those of a City : And in such Case, but not otherwise, the small Damages that any single Province, City, Corporation, or private Person might sustain, must be overlook'd.

This must, however, be understood, with this Restriction, that it is not hereby intended to set up a new Republick, or to make any Alteration in the interior Constitution of our Country ; far from it, for it is certainly best, and most advantageous for the Country, that the Reforms in Trade should be made, as far as possible, according to the actual Situation and State of its Affairs ; nor could any thing be conceived more dangerous, than to attempt Innovations of this Nature.

From what has been premised on the Subject of our general Trade, we take it for granted, that we may lay it down as an indisputable Truth, that the Duties and Imposts must be lowered and abated.

From

From whence the two following Questions will naturally arise.

1. What Goods ought principally to have the Benefit of such a Diminution; and what Rules, in relation thereto, will be proper to be observed.

2. Wherein it must consist, and in what Proportion it must be settled.

As to the first Question, on what Goods, the Lowering and Abatement of publick Duties should principally fall; it has been observed, that principally, all foreign Goods, which are not only brought and consumed in our Country, but also taken off our Hands by Foreigners, should enjoy this Benefit: For, to put our Merchants in a Condition, to trade on an equal Footing with their Neighbours, at foreign Markets; the carrying of Goods through, and traffick- ing in this Country, should be made as cheap and easy, as can possibly be contrived.

Of these Goods, a Preference should be given to all the prime Materials, that are serviceable in our Fabricks, Manufactures, Handicrafts, &c. as also the Ingredients necessary in the said Handicrafts, Manufactures, and Fabricks. By such Measures, our Fabricks, Manufactures and Handicrafts, would be encouraged on the same Footing as our general Trade, and no Cause of Dispute given between those pretended jarring Interests.

All foreign Goods and Merchandizes, that come here to be sifted and assorted, and afterwards again exported, ought likewise to enjoy the
Benefit

Benefit of this Diminution and Abatement; for these are an Inducement to the industrious Trader to exercise his Talents, in setting them to work: And were it requisite to enumerate in this Article, all the Advantages that Trade reaps from those Affortments, even under the present heavy Taxes; we should find, that the falling off of our Trade, has thereby, in some Measure, been stopt. But when People in foreign Parts set about the same, as it is already perceiv'd they do, it will be then too late to guard against, or to prevent it.

Neither can such Goods, as are not work'd, manufactured, or sort'd here; but re-exported in the same Condition, as they were imported, be excluded from this Advantage, without Prejudice to Trade in general; for these Goods, when there is a Superfluity of them, furnish the Merchants with an Opportunity to make Magazines of them in this Country.

The Advantages arising from hence, and which have only Relation to Trade, are these,

That whenever afterwards a Scarcity happens, Foreigners can buy these Goods of us, at a lower Price, than at the Places where they are produced; not to mention many other Advantages accruing therefrom to this Country; and considering, that the Plenty of Money to be found here above other Places, and the low Interest it bears in Comparison to other Countries, contribute to this sort of Trade, one may promise one's Self great Success from the Diminution so desired.

Finally,

Finally, we should reflect on such foreign Goods, which being admitted not prejudicial to our Fabricks, yet, as they are principally consumed in the Country, should on Importation pay some Duties, in order to make the Loss of the Admiralties, as small as possible.

As to the second Question, how far the same ought to take Place on such Goods, a few Words will suffice to shew; and we need only remark, the more these are relieved, the greater will be the Success of the Diminution.

Having thus established some Principles concerning what Goods should enjoy the Benefit of a Free Port coming in and going out; we may now proceed to such, as, by their Importation, are prejudicial to our said Fabricks, Manufactures, and Handicrafts; and to the Products of our Country, Colonies, and Fisheries.

As to all these last mentioned Goods, it is agreed, that they ought, on Importation, not only to remain taxed; but, so far as they tend to Luxury, to Superfluities, and to Use, are thereby prejudicial to our said Fabricks, Manufactures, &c. therefore should be as heavily charged as possible; with proper Regard, however, to our Treaties; as also, that by too heavy Imposts, we do not involve ourselves in those Difficulties, of which the List of the Year 1725- produces many Instances, which have had this Effect, that the Colleges of the Admiralties would have raised and received more, had they asked less; a Consideration, which

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ought to be well remembred, when we set about a Reformation of their Revenues.

Being now come to the Means of Redress, that are proposed as most proper to restore the Trade of the Republick to its former Lustre, Dignity, and Credit, if possible; three different Plans shall be mentioned, each of which, separately considered, will remedy several of the Causes of Decay above specified.

These have been the Occasion, that most of the Merchants proper to be consulted, and whose Advices might be relied on, after many Discussions and Debates, have approved of a fourth Plan of Redress, composed out of the three former; selecting out of each, that which was found to be of the greatest Use, and most applicable to the actual Situation of Affairs; and which, it is thought, will be liable to the fewest Difficulties in the Execution.

The three first Plans we shall here briefly specify.

The first Plan consists in a *Free Passage* for all foreign Goods and Merchandize appertaining to Trade in general; subject, notwithstanding, to this Precaution, that the Goods, upon their first Landing, shall be immediately sealed, and remain inclosed in the same Chests, Packs, and Bales, until they are again sent out of the Republick.

The second proposes a *considerable Alteration and Diminution in the Placart and List of 1725*: This Diminution to take Place on most Articles, but

but especially on such Goods as have most Influence on the general Trade and Navigation.

According to the third Plan, *a general Free Port would answer the End*; in which Case, it would be proper for the Duty on Lestage or Tonnage, to be so far increased, that the Deficiency to the Colleges of the Admiralty might be thereby supplied.

Were we to give these three Plans their full Scope and due Extent, by describing them with all their Limitations and Restrictions, as they were delivered by those who patronized them; and to annex the Advantages that might be expected from, and the Inconveniences and Difficulties that would attend each in the Execution of them, it would lay us under a Necessity, to enter upon a long Detail of Particulars, and very much swell this Dissertation; which we think more proper to decline, especially, as we have been obliged to expatiate on some Articles, whereby this Treatise is already become longer than was at first proposed.

The fourth Method therefore here proposed, as an expedient Plan, not only to preserve the Trade of the Republick from a further Decrease, but also to revive and render it still more extensive, is *a limited Free Port*.

It consists in dividing the Goods and Merchandizes into certain Lists or Classes; according to which, some Goods shall enjoy the Benefit of a Free Port, others to be excepted, and to pay certain Duties on Importation; but, when some of these last are designed to be again ex-

ported out of the Country, they to have a Drawback, or in lieu thereof a Free Passage.

Upon a close Examination of this Plan, it will be found best adapted to the present State of the Republick, the actual Constitution of our Trade, the Nature and Property of our Commerce, the ~~real~~ Situation and Traffick all over *Europe*, and those general Grounds and Principles above set forth; over and above all this, some special Considerations have been had on some particular Species of Goods.

According to this Plan, it is proposed, in the first Place, that all the Goods mentioned in the List marked A, shall enjoy the Benefit of a Free Port, and be exempted from all Duties on Importation; of what Denomination, or how inconsiderable soever, the same may be.

With this Restriction, notwithstanding, that all the Goods, when imported, shall be subject to the Visitation of the Commissaries, and others appointed for that Purpose, and be liable to a Seizure and Confiscation; in case, under this Colour and Pretext, an Attempt should be made to enter other Goods that are not free, thereby fraudulently to diminish the Revenues of the Country: On a Discovery whereof, the Goods, both free and not free, shall be forfeited.

Whoever shall be pleased, attentively, to examine this first List, will find, that Regard has commonly been had, in making the same, to the Grounds herein before laid down: But to prove this of every Particular, to point out the Application

Application of each single Article to the said Principles, and to add all the Reasons Pro and Con, would spin out this Treatise to a tiresome Length, which we think ought to be avoided, in a Proposal of this Nature.

In the second Place, all the Goods specified in the list marked B, are brought under a second Class, and the same should be obliged to pay certain Duties on their Importation into the Republick.

On this second List, a large Commentary might be required, to set forth, for what Reasons and Causes the different Goods therein mentioned, are neither rated higher or lower: But, not to swell this Dissertation beyond its proper Bounds, we shall in general observe, without dwelling on a Subject so copious and extensive, that in drawing up this List, besides the Interest of the Admiralties, we have kept this in view, that by the Importation of some Goods, our Manufactures, Handicrafts, and Products of our own Country might not sustain any Damage, whose Interest herein would be opposite to what the general Trade requires.

We were, therefore, of Opinion, that all those Goods, on their Importation into the Republick, ought to stand charged, in such a Manner, as not to cause any Prejudice to the Sale of our own, within the Limits of the Republick.

All these Duties to be collected in the same Way and Manner, and by the same Persons, as they have been received by heretofore, with
this

this only Difference, that they shall be hereafter raised on an equal Footing, and that all fraudulent Receivers be proceeded against with the utmost Severity.

But here arises a Difficulty, that merits the utmost Attention, and must, one Way or other, necessarily be removed.

The Goods, which, for the Reasons aforesaid, ought not to be brought into the Republick, without paying certain Duties, will therefore not be imported in larger Quantities, than what may be required for the Use and Consumption of the Inhabitants of the Republick; and consequently, the general Market and Magazine for those Goods will not fix itself here, according to these Proposals; nor will they be sent through this Country; which is, however, so very desirable, that it ought to be our principle and chief Aim.

For a Removal of this Difficulty, to the utmost of our Power, two different Methods have been thought on, which we shall set forth as briefly as possible.

The first Method should consist in a Draw-back on some of the Goods, enumerated in the List marked B, which are the Cause of this Objection.

This Method must be understood as follows.

The Importer of these Goods by Sea, on paying the Duties at the Entry, to have a Receipt; by which Receipt, the Possessor thereof shall be entitled to be reimbursed, the Duty paid at such Entry, on making it appear, by
Certificates

Certificates from the Commissaries, that the said Goods, or other Inland Goods of the same Sort, in lieu thereof, were exported.

The Consequence whereof would be, that on one side, the Importation of those foreign Goods might be free and open, the Merchant be always Master of his Goods, have a Right to open the Chests, Packs, and Cases, and might put in Practice his Skill and Industry in sorting the same, without thereby prejudicing the Inland Sale of our own Goods; that, on the other hand, our own Goods, Merchandize, and Manufactures would, whenever they should be sent out of the Republick, reap the Benefit and Indulgence of the said Receipts, and of the Duties paid thereon; and that the foreign Goods which had laid here some Time, might, by Means of the said Receipts, be exported again free, and without any Duty charged on them; since by this Way of Drawback, the Duties they had paid would be fully reimbursed.

This Proposal, how ingenious and plausible soever it may seem, is subject to a Variety of Difficulties; to prevent which, without taking Notice of them here, we should find ourselves very much embarrassed; and a Door might, perhaps, be thereby opened to a great Number of Frauds, extremely pernicious to our Manufactures, Handicrafts, Colonies, &c. at least, it is certain, that nothing is more apt to make us apprehensive of this, than to consider the immense Sums expended in *England*, to prevent Frauds, in regard to such Goods as are entitled

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to a Drawback, and which would be still more difficult in a Country so constituted as this Republick.

This, however, is no Reason why the same deserves not to be more amply considered.

The second Proposal is, to grant a Free Passage for such Goods, the Transportation whereof, through this Country, ought to be encouraged, without thereby prejudicing our own Goods and Manufactures; which Free Passage should take place under such Precautions, as are prescribed by former Ordinances and Placarts, and such Amendments as shall be found necessary, according to the State of Things; for which we refer to the Draft annexed to the End of this Dissertation.

By these Precautions it is presumed, that the Frauds might be prevented; and that such Goods might be imported without paying any Duties inwards, and pass through our Country without Suspicion of any Frauds, or becoming any way a Prejudice to our Fabricks, Handicrafts, Colonies, Companies, Fisheries, &c.

Be this as it will, it were highly to be wished, that one of the two Proposals foregoing could be rendred practicable, to preserve the Passage of the Goods, already enumerated in the List B, through this Country.

According to this Plan of Redress, it must absolutely be determined, that all the Goods, which by former Ordinances and Placarts, were prohibited to be either imported or exported, still continue to be prohibited in the same Manner :

manner ; for as the Causes, that gave room for the issuing out such Prohibitions, still subsist, there cannot be a Cause assigned for any Change or Alteration to be made therein.

The Goods belonging to this Class are contained in the List marked with the Letter C.

Thus, in as concise a Method as possible, you may see the whole Plan of Redress ; which, it is thought, might be brought to a successful Issue, and happily effected ; and whereby, it is believed, the whole Trade of the Republick might not only be preserved from a total Ruin, but also be retrieved, re-animated, and invigorated with new Life and Spirits, in case it was supported by other particular Amendments, which we shall not insist on here ; as the proper Occasion for it, will be only, when a limited Free Port shall be approved of, as the general Means of a Redress.

In the contriving of this Plan, it has been more than once discovered, as has been already several Times remarked before, that in this Affair, a Variety of jarring Interests did frequently occur.

And hence has sprung the Cause, why the Goods and Merchandize could not be reduced under some certain general Rules, and that obliged us to consider and weigh almost every Article apart ; and after examining what could be alledged for and against each Article, we have determined on that which appeared liable to the least Difficulties.

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Not that we look on the Lists, as they are drawn out, as absolutely perfect and compleat, nor do we flatter ourselves that they are not capable of Amendment. This was neither intended, nor indeed possible, for although the most eminent and experienced Merchants were consulted, yet their extensive Knowledge, in regard to Trade in general, would not enable them to attain to an equal Penetration and Insight into all the various Particulars, and different Species of Goods, with their several Uses in our Fabricks and Manufactures. However, it has been thought proper to put the Goods and Merchandize to that List to which they reported them to belong, according to the best of their Judgment and Experience: Which was done with this View, that whenever the Plan, in general, shall be properly examined by those in the Republick, who are always consulted about mercantile Affairs, and the Lists likewise shall be examined, with such Reflections made on each Article, abstracted from the rest, as they shall think fitting; then those Merchants, who trade in each Species of Goods, may be heard against it; whereby one will be enabled, on comparing the Reasons and Arguments on both Sides, to chuse that which shall be found to be most for the Advantage of the Trade.

From what has been hitherto said, with Regard to the Duties that must remain, according to this Proposal, on some Goods and Merchandize; it evidently appears, that all Methods, Means, and Regulations which can be made

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use of on the Head of Trade, will be invalid and to no Purpose; as long as no effectual Remedies are taken against the unequal Levying of the Duties by Water, and the Frauds and Male Practices crept in: The Importance of this Affair requires, that it be canvassed and examined to the Bottom.

To treat of this Subject in a regular Order, it may possibly be required of us, to shew, that various Frauds, in different Shapes, have been committed since the Lift or Regulation in the Year 1725, and that the Precautions then taken, are insufficient.

To attempt the proving this by particular Instances and circumstantial Cases, would appear extremely ridiculous: The Affair is too notorious to need our spending any longer Time about it.

It is as undeniable, that in case the Running of Goods is tolerated more, or less severely punished in one Province or City only than in another, it will be absolutely impracticable, in the other Provinces or Cities, to prevent the same.

Every one who shall consider this Evil impartially, and without Prejudice, must be self-convinced of the Necessity there is immediately to remedy the same, in the most effectual Manner, and by such Means, that all the Provinces and Cities may be thoroughly satisfied, that there is no Connivance more allowed of in one Place, than in another.

But the Necessity of such Redress will more evidently appear, when we consider the Effect which this Remissness, in receiving the Duties, produces in those Cities and Provinces which are otherways inclinable enough to levy the Taxes, according to the Placarts and Ordinances; but on account of what is practised in other Provinces and Cities, either cannot, or dare not, use greater Severity; from whence it is, that every one connives at daily Smuggling, to keep the Trade amongst themselves.

These Precautions against all Frauds become now the more requisite, by the proposed Diminution of the Revenues from a Free Port.

In regard to which, however, the Redress is not more necessary than it is difficult: Let us but consider, what Precautions, Pains, and Expences, are to this End bestowed in *France*, in *England*, and in other Places, and all incessantly without Effect; how much more difficult it must be in such a Country as ours, where the Constitution of the Land, the different Interests and Jurisdictions of the Provinces and Cities, render our Care and Precautions exceedingly more irksome.

The Tricks and Inventions from Time to Time made use of to carry on this Practice, are so manifold, so private, and so artfully contrived; that, were a Person to devise new Methods that should be valid and sufficient to prevent all Smuggling, he would at once throw up his Project in Despair; especially, as such Means must be fit to be reduced to Practice, not clogg'd with

with too many Obstacles; and at the same Time effective of producing the End aimed at.

These Difficulties are not here started with an Intent to give up all Hopes, to look upon it as an impracticable Scheme, or to deter us from pursuing the same; but only to shew, that it is of such a Nature, that it requires the Use of such Means, as in the ordinary Course of Things ought not to be made use of; since Allowance must be sometimes made for the common Frailty and Depravity of the Multitude: But, as the Preservation and Prosperity of the Country and its Inhabitants depend on this Particular, the Means ought not to be rejected, because they seem to be attended with an unusual Hardship and Severity.

How strongly were it to be wished, that the respective Provinces and Cities might be so thoroughly convinced, by what has been advanced on this Subject; that for the Welfare and the Preservation of the State, they would lay aside at once all Views and Pretexts, as might seem to be repugnant to it.

And now proceeding to the Methods, which we presume, might be successfully made use of, to prevent these Frauds, we shall lay it down as the Basis and Foundation of the whole Fabric,

That the Fines, Penalties, and Punishments must be enlarged; and sometimes, if the Nature of the Case shall so require, extended to Infamy and Banishment, or even Death itself; and that these Laws be strictly put in Execution without

without the least Connivance. Were this but done, what honest Man would run the Risque of being Infamous, or accounted a Plunderer or Robber of his Country, or of being liable to suffer Banishment or Death.

That the Searching after Goods must be more extensive, especially, when there is any Suspicion or Proof of Fraud.

That new Regulations be made concerning Watermen, Porters, Carmen, and all others that are employed in unloading of Goods.

The Informations and Proof of Smuggling, ought to be left free and open to every Individual; even to the Accomplices, under Promise of Indemnity; allowing to the Informer the Whole or the greatest Part of the Fines and Penalties.

That the Pass-ports of the Goods, which come down by the Rivers, do for the future remain along with them, the Searching such Goods again chiefly depending thereon; and which, at different Times, has been earnestly requested by the Colleges of the Admiralty residing in *Holland*.

To consider, for the future, the Duties upon all Goods imported, as Revenues belonging to the State in general, and not to any one Province in particular.

Consequently, the Management and Direction of these publick Revenues of the Country, ought to be taken away from particular Provinces and Cities, and such Power and Authority invested in the Generality, to put the Laws
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in Execution, relating to levying the Duties on Goods imported by Sea, in all the Provinces and Cities, as the Nature of the Case may require; it being notorious, that the best Laws are mere Cyphers, if not duly executed: For it is otherwise very much to be feared, that all Regulations will be of no Effect, be they ever so useful and necessary, or ever so well calculated for the common Benefit.

In order to effect this, the Jurisdiction and Authority of the Colleges of Admiralty ought to be maintained and strengthened against all those that are guilty of any Frauds; and all Offences against the said Jurisdiction and Authority, ought to be speedily and effectually decided and prevented.

The Magistrates and Civil Officers ought to bind themselves by Oath, to promise and agree, that they will assist the Collectors of the Customs and Licences, in all Things relating to their Duty, nor hinder, oppose, or resist, directly or indirectly, the Colleges of the Admiralty, in the Execution of their Commission; nor their Officers in Things relating to the collecting of the publick Revenues, and executing the Placards, nor suffer the same to be done, as far as in them lies.

Consequently, the Cases of such who are guilty of any Frauds, must for the future, not be removeable from the Jurisdiction of the Colleges, to the Sheriffs Courts of the Cities.

Above all, the respective Colleges of Admiralty ought solemnly to oblige themselves to collect

collect the Duties every where alike, and on the same Footing, without Respect to Persons or Places, and strictly to execute this Trust without the least Connivance: For as soon as it is but surmised, that any Thing is wrong managed, in regard to the Collection of the Duties, in any one Place; that bad Example, whether the Supposition be well or ill-grounded, will be immediately espoused and practised, as it were, by Way of Retortion, in other Places: And therefore such Proceedings should be the more cautiously avoided.

For the strictest Laws, without an universal Obedience to them, are only Ties on the most Scrupulous, and consequently the best Part of Mankind; when at the same Time, they are sensibly hurt, by having their Trade and Navigation withdrawn from them.

For this Purpose, it might be also requisite, that some new Orders and Regulations be made concerning the Officers employed by the Colleges of Admiralty, in the collecting and receiving the Duties on Goods coming by Water.

It may be necessary here to take some Notice of the Duties, which, according to this Proposal, the Colleges of the Admiralty will be entitled to; and in what Manner, it is judged, that the Deficiency which will be occasioned in the ordinary Revenues, by these Regulations, may be supplied.

The Admiralties will continue to receive all the Duties, which the Goods mentioned in the

the abovesaid List marked B, remain charged with, and to collect, as usual, the Last-Money, Pass-ports and Stamps.

And as this new Plan lays it down for a fundamental Maxim, that it must go hand in hand with the most strict and effectual Precautions, against all Frauds and Male-Practices, particularly, against any partial or unequal Collection of the Duties ; we therefore doubt not, but that the general Produce of the Duties, on those Goods which remain liable to Part thereof, will be considerably increased: For we think we may with Reason assert, that above half the Goods now imported into this Republick, pay little or no Duties ; for the Truth whereof, we appeal to the Experience of the Admiralty Colleges themselves ; whereto other Proofs might be added, did not the Thing speak for itself.

We shall now briefly examine the consequential Advantages of this proposed Project of Redress ; which, it is not doubted, will be found of that Nature and Importance, as not to suffer a few Difficulties that may be foreseen to attend the Execution of it, to intimidate or deter us from putting it in Practice, but rather put us upon using our utmost Endeavours to conquer and remove them.

The Effect of this Plan will be, that by thus disburthening Trade in general, and some Branches of it in particular ; the Commerce of the Republick will be preserved from a further Decay, and give room to hope for its Increase

crease daily ; whereby, probably, this Republick may in Time become once again, as it was heretofore, the general Mart of *Europe* ; at least, there is a great Likelihood thereof, in regard to some particular Goods and Commodities.

This first Advantage will be attended with a second, namely, a proportional Augmentation of Shipping and Navigation.

Again, the Increase of Trade has a great Influence upon Navigation, that of Navigation alternately the same on Trade ; and they reciprocally enlarge each other.

The bringing in and carrying out again of such Goods as enjoy the Benefit of a Free Port, will occasion the continual Flux and Reflux of Ships and Goods coming in and going out ; which, tho' they pay not any Duties to the State, leave always more or less Benefit and Advantage behind them in the Country.

This Plan is further look'd on as the Means for getting again Possession of the Trade from the *North* to *Portugal*, *Spain*, *Italy*, &c. and back again in the same Manner ; the Advantages whereof are vastly great, and very much contribute to the Increase of Navigation.

By these general Amendments, we shall put ourselves in a Condition to reduce the Trade of *Hamburgh*, *Bremen*, *Lubeck*, *Denmark*, and other Places ; at least, to prevent their doing us a further Prejudice. At the same Time, it will be an efficacious Remedy, to smother in its Infancy

fancy the Trade, which is endeavoured to be settled and established in some other Parts.

This Propofal would have as favourable an Effect on the Inland Trade of the Country : But without mentioning the Concourse of all sorts of People that would again resort hither, especially of Merchants flocking in to such a general Mart, and the Consumption of Necessaries arising from the same Motive, we shall only take Notice of the great Vent which will thereby likewise be occasioned, of such Goods, Merchandizes, and Manufactures, and among Handicrafts, as might be had cheaper elsewhere; and yet the Merchant will chuse rather to buy them in this Country; because he finds his Advantage in sending them again, forward from hence with more Ease, Expedition, and less Expence, and along with other Goods, which he may have bought at other Places : Besides, it is well known, that the Sale of one Article often introduces the Disposing of another.

There are several particular Advantages besides of a different Kind : The Merchant gains, at least, something by forwarding of Goods, which Business will, in all probability, increase greatly : If he advance Money on these Goods; he has Interest for his Money : Insurances will also be considerably augmented : Exchanging and remitting of Money will be again drawn into this Country ; and by that Means the Circulation of it, with foreign Nations; which always brings more or less Advantage to a Country, and must necessarily

necessarily tend to an Increase of the Inland Circulation.

The augmenting the Circulation of Money in Trade, will prevent our Inhabitants from placing out their Money in the Funds Abroad, because they can employ it to Advantage at Home. If this Plan could have such a salutary Effect as to fix the general Magazine of Goods and Merchandizes here, we should then run no Risque of ever having a Scarcity or Dearth of such Goods in this Country.

As the Navigation increases, so must the Seamen likewise, and consequently the Number of Sailors to mann our Fleet in Time of War: During the late Troubles, the Republick too well knew the Want of Seafaring People.

We shall conclude with this Remark, that we are verily persuaded, the Plan, as here laid down, is the most proper of any thing that can be proposed for that purpose, being free from a Multiplicily of Laws, Cautions, and Restrictions, which generally create so much Trouble and Perplexity in Trade. This Plan of Redress also has the nearest Affinity to the actual Situation and Constitution of our Commerce, and has finally this Advantage, that the Practice of Running Goods, will thereby be very much diminished.

We shall pass by in Silence here, what further advantageous Consequences may be expected from these Proposals: What has already been advanced, will be abundantly sufficient to make us sensible, that nothing ought to be neglected

lected or omitted for the surmounting and removing every Obstacle, which may be possibly thrown in by Way of Opposition to the Plan before us ; and not to spare our Pains and Application to cultivate, improve, and bring the same to that Perfection, as will reduce it into Practice.

There will possibly be several Objections started against this Proposal : And it is not to be dissembled, that in a Matter of so copious an Extent, and of such weighty Consequence, there must some Difficulties still subsist ; which cannot well be otherwise, in a Country, where the Abuses have insinuated themselves, and crept in by slow Degrees, and therefore must, of course, make it the Interest of many Persons now, that every thing should rest upon its ancient Footing. Hence it is our Opinion, that in an Affair of this Nature, where it is morally impossible fully to satisfy each Individual, and, at the same Time, to secure the publick Interest, the best Way is, amongst a Number of Difficulties, to obviate those that are the most essential : To this End, we have throughout this whole Design, and all the Circumstances attending it, always kept close to the Concerns and Advantages of the Admiralties, the Colonies, Fabricks, and Handicrafts, as well as of the Fisheries and Products of the Country ; at least, so far as they were reconcileable with the general Commerce, which has been the principal Aim we had in View ; and therefore flatter ourselves, that no material Scruples will arise from these
Colleges

Colleges and Corporations. Besides, having at present only Regard to Commerce in general; the Inquiry in what Manner best to favour the different Branches of our Trade by particular Regulations and Dispositions, will more properly fall in hereafter.

As the Plan now stands, that every Branch of our Trade will receive a Benefit by it, infinitely greater, than by the present actual State of Commerce, will not admit of the least Doubt: We shall therefore, for the present, setting aside all particular Objections, content ourselves with a few of those general ones which regard the whole Plan.

In the *first* Place, it may be objected, that the Means herein proposed for a Redress, will not prove so advantageous to Trade, as is pretended, inasmuch as the Frauds, which have been hitherto practised, have as much disburthened Trade, as is attempted to be done by these new Regulations.

Secondly, an Appeal may be made to what happened at the Alteration of the List in the Year 1725, made with a View, at that Time, to increase the Revenues on Imports by Sea, by lessening the Duties, by levying the same in a more impartial Manner, and under a Pretext, that the Diminution thence arising, could only be overbalanced, and again made good by the more frequent Entries of Goods, which were all expected from it: But the Event has made it appear, how much those who depended on an Increase of the Revenues of the Colleges, by a
strict

strict and punctual Execution of the aforesaid List and Placart, were out in their Calculation.

To which may be added, *thirdly*, to give it still more Weight, that the bad State of our Treasury, together with the precarious and uncertain Issue of this Proposal, might prove of the most ruinous Consequence to the Republick, that at all Events, it would be a Work of Time to bring these Alterations to operate with Effect, and therefore best to leave Things on their old Footing; that even admitting, some Abuses had crept in, they were of an ancient Standing, the Circumstances of the Republick had been accommodated and conformed thereto, and it might prove dangerous to attempt a Redressing of the same at one Stroke, and in an Instant, which might introduce a Scene of Confusion; and, in a word, we should run a greater Hazard in applying the Remedy, than in enduring the Evil.

As to the *first*, we shall remark, that it may appear a very plausible Objection, to such as have never once considered the intrinsic Nature of the Thing: For, upon a Supposition, that the Burthen remains the same on Commerce in general, yet the Manner in which that Burthen is divided among the several Branches of Trade, makes a wide Difference; since it must needs become extremely pernicious, when the highest Duties are levied on such Goods, as are the Objects of Trade in general; and, on the contrary, those which only
serve

serve for a Home Consumption, and administer to Luxury and Pride, are lowest rated.

It is equally detrimental to our Trade, when the same sorts of Goods pay more Duties in one Part of the Republick than in another ; as when some Merchants continue to pay them, whilst others, by Frauds and Male-Practices, screen themselves, and elude the Payment of them : To which may be added, that those, who by Smuggling, evade the Duties, are generally obliged to be at great Expences to compass or effect it : All which Reflections might have been more enlarged upon, and set in a clearer Light, had it been judged necessary. We shall therefore conclude with remarking on this Head, that the Load, which by these Proposals is still left on the Trade of the Republick, is too heavy to be supported, and it were highly to be wished, a further Ease could be administered ; but, as this is not practicable, there remains no other Remedy, than to impose and divide this Burthen ; in such a manner, on and amongst the sundry Branches of Commerce, Goods and Merchandize, as may be least hurtful to, and least sensibly felt in Trade.

2. In regard to the *second* Objection, that the Expectations from the Placart and Lifts of the Year 1725, were the same, as are now conceived from this Plan ; an Answer here above has been already given, that the Reduction was, at that Time, not sufficient ; that the Duties which remained, were very unequally divided ; and that there is Reason to doubt, whether

whether the chief Aim, in the Transactions of that Year, was to increase the Revenues of the Colleges of Admiralty, or to favour Trade and make it flourish.

Frauds are rather more numerous, than at all lessened since that Period, and the Partiality used in collecting the Duties, has contributed not a little, towards frustrating the Effect of those Alterations.

3. What is advanced, *thirdly*, on the Uncertainty of its Success, and the Danger which might result to the Republick, were this Proposal to miscarry; is an Allegation, which has no Probability, no Foundation to support it.

The Nature of the Thing implies, that the large Advantages granted by this Plan, to particular Goods and Merchandize, must necessarily have a powerful Effect, on the Trade of those Commodities; which leads us to entertain a contrary Opinion, that the Appearance of the Success is so clear and evident, that nothing but absolute Certainty, could be more so; and that without some such Redress, the Trade of the Republick, and consequently the Republick itself, must entirely sink.

The Conclusion endeavoured to be drawn from thence, rather to leave every thing on the old Footing, through fear of introducing a Confusion and Disturbance; has as little Foundation, and by proving too much, proves nothing, the Consequence of this Argument would be; that nothing ought to be redressed

in any State or large Oeconomy, because every such Redress is liable to the same Objection.

Who would venture to assert of a private Oeconomy, that the whole Family would run into Confusion, upon an Attempt to discountenance and prevent Pilfering, Waste, Sluttishness, Neglects, Extravagance in House-keeping, with other Indiscretions and bad Management? From whence we would infer, that the Business ought not to be undertaken without mature Consideration, well weighing the Consequences to be expected from it, preventing, as much as possible, whatever Difficulties can be foreseen; and then resting assured, that no Assistance can be given to our Trade, without some very effectual Remedy, which ought to have a very speedy Operation: And as for any private Inconveniences which might arise from it, they would amply be compensated, by the Benefit, the Publick would reap from it.

A *second* Sort of Objections may be deduced from the Effect, which these Dispositions in our Commerce will have among our Neighbours: It will be alledged, that they will all look with an evil Eye upon a limited Free Port; that such sudden Alterations will awaken the Jealousy, and excite the Envy of all trading Nations, and instigate them, by all possible Means, to thwart our Trade; either by granting the same Privileges and Emoluments, as we are about doing to our Merchants; or to follow the Example of the *English*, and other Nations, by prohibiting the Importation of any Goods or Merchandize,

except

except in such Ships only, as belong to those Nations and Places, where the Goods are produced or made, &c.

To which we answer ;

First, that as to the Jealousy of our Neighbours, we need be under no Apprehensions about it, whilst the Republick tenaciously adheres to this fixed Maxim, not to give any well-grounded Cause of Offence, by those Dispositions and Measures which are proposed to be made in our Trade : On the contrary, most of the neighbouring Nations will be more or less concerned, in the Conservation of our Trade, as their Commerce chiefly consists in the Vending of their own Products ; and will therefore rather protect than obstruct ours, which has such a Connection with their own, that it may not improperly be called a Part ; It is easily perceived, that we would be understood here to speak only of those Nations which employ our Merchants and Shipping to dispose of and transport their Goods : As to others, they have, at all Times, endeavoured to thwart our Trade, continue to do so daily, and are not likely to recede for the future, from such a Practice : These will, doubtless, be chagrined, on seeing the Regulations we may make for the Benefit of our Commerce : However, as their Endeavours are not wanting, to do us all the Prejudice they can, even now, whilst our Trade is on the Decline, we shall be able to frustrate their Attempts with more Success, when the same shall be put under better Regulations.

gulations. And in regard to this Objection, the following Reflection accurs, that when this Republick was formerly in Possession of an universal Commerce, it was at the same Time in a Condition also to defend and protect that Commerce against any, that endeavoured to disturb it.

Secondly, if we once come to a Resolution, to ease and promote our foreign Trade as much as possible, then our Neighbours will never be in a Condition, to put themselves in all respect, on an equal Footing with the *Dutch*. The Republick possesses within herself such Advantages as are not to be found any where besides, in the like Quantity, or to the same Degree, which sets her in a Point of Eminence, above all other Nations of *Europe*; in reference where-to, we need only remember what has been mentioned above, concerning the Increase and Growth of our Trade.

The whole Republick seems to be formed and designed for carrying on of Trade: And as the Goods may be transported from one Place to another, in such an easy, cheap, and expeditious Manner, by Means of our Canals and Inland Roads, it may be looked upon as one compact City.

The Situation, in regard to all *Europe*, is extremely advantageous.

No Nation in *Europe*, is so happily situated for promoting of Fisheries.

No Nation has a greater or more extensive Knowledge of Trade and Navigation.

All

All the Capacity and Qualifications essential to, or requisite in Trade, are found among the *Dutch*, to a greater Degree than any where besides.

Their Frugality and saving Disposition exceeds that of all other Seafaring People, since they can mann a Ship with eighteen or twenty Men, where other Nations require near a third Number of additional Hands.

Whereunto may be added, their Management in providing for the Crews, in building their Ships, and in knowing how to make a much longer Use of them than others. All which taken together, are a Reason, why no other Nation can carry Goods by Sea, on the same Terms as the *Dutch*.

A great Plenty of Money is another Advantage which the *Dutch* have above their Neighbours; the Benefit whereof in Trade, as well by buying Goods cheap, as accumulating Magazines in proper Time, is largely and curiously discussed and set forth, throughout the 2d Chapter of *Law's* Treatise, entituled, *Considerations sur le Commerce, & sur l'Argent*.

No other Nation is satisfied with such a small Profit as ours, or waits for favourable Opportunities with an equal Degree of Patience; infomuch that with us, it is become a common Proverb; Light Gains make heavy Purfes.

In *Holland*, there is no impressing into military Service, but the Inhabitants enjoy full Liberty; and being for the most Part Protestants, have but few Holy-Days of course: Nor
is

is there any Country that is a more commodious Nursery for Sailors or Seamen, when the proper Means are used for that Purpose.

The Vending of our *East* and *West India* Commodities, especially of the former, is another peculiar Advantage we enjoy, and which gives our Trade a Preference to that of other Nations.

The Spices, in particular, in some Places do, in many Instances, stand us in Stead of, and are equivalent to, ready Cash.

Other Reflections might here be added, of a like Nature ; but what has been already said, may be sufficient for us safely to conclude, that no Neighbours or Foreigners, by any domestick Regulations they may make within themselves, or by any Accessions of Advantage, how great soever to their Trade, will ever be in a Capacity, to prejudice the Commerce of this Republick, at least they never will be able to prevent its more diffusive Spread; provided always, that the State knows how to take the proper Advantages, and shall, above all Things, resolve to lessen the Imposts and Duties, or at least to divide such as shall remain, with Deliberation and Precaution, upon and amongst those Goods, which can best bear the Burthen.

Thirdly, It is not to be denied, that nothing could be thought of more dangerous, or even fatal to our Commerce, than for our Neighbours to prohibit the Importation of all Goods and Merchandize, except in such Ships only
which

which belong to the Place where the Goods are fabricated, or are the Produce of that Country; but then, such a Prohibition is, on the other Hand, very little to be apprehended by this Republick, since the Circumstances of most Countries will not admit thereof, as it would necessarily prove a very great Detriment to those Nations, which have a Superfluity of their own Products and Fabricks. Besides all this, such a Prohibition would be equally dangerous to the Republick, even upon a Supposition, that Things were to be left on the old Footing.

We have, *lastly*, reserved to this Place, an Objection, which is the usual Refuge of those, who find their Account in the old Abuses, and has several Times been made use of with Success, in these Countries, against all Reformati-
ons, namely, that a limited Free Port is a Novelty.

It must indeed be owned, that this Remedy of Redress is new, and that there never was a limited Free Port in this Republick; but it is as expressly denied, that the Grounds and Principles are new, on which the same is founded, or that they recede from those fundamental Maxims, which the Republick has at all Times pursued. Yet, as these fundamental Principles may be susceptible of different Appellations, according to the different Circumstances of the Republick and its Trade, whether internal or external; Alterations or Novelties must some Time or other take place in the Regulations of
Trade,

Trade, whenever there is a Revolution in our own Country, or in the trading Nations about us, agreeably to the Proverb, *When Rivers alter their Course, the Beacons needs must be removed.*

To illustrate this with an Example; it has always been an universal Maxim in this Republick, to charge Trade only in a certain Proportion with other Nations, and by those Means to influence foreign Merchants to come to us, rather than go to them.

If therefore the outward Circumstances of Trade are so altered, that neighbouring Countries lay less Impositions on Trade, and grant it more Immunities, Encouragement, and Favour; or, in a Word, if foreign Merchants finds it turn out more to their Advantage, to go to those adjacent Nations; then the old Principles and Maxims of our State require, that we should also mutually combine, to ease our Trade, by granting it some fresh Accessions of Advantage, in order for it to remain much in the same Proportion with other trading Nations.

In that Sense therefore, and no other, the present Scheme of Redress may be called a Novelty; and to shew this yet further, let us only reflect, what Alterations have been made, and in what different Shapes Trade has, in general, appeared throughout all *Europe*.

In earlier Times, the *Dutch* were the sole Possessors of Commerce, and the only People who visited all Quarters of the Globe, to fetch Commodities from such Countries, where there

was

was any Superfluity, in order to furnish others with them; while other Nations were content to supply themselves with what they wanted, in this Republick, without going for them to the Places where they had been made: Now there is not a Nation, but what, more or less, apply themselves to Trade, and use their utmost Endeavours to draw it into, and promote it in their native Soil; nor is there one, but has in a greater or a less Degree herein succeeded, to the manifest Disadvantage of this Republick.

This, therefore, obliges us to alter our Measures, conformably to the State and Circumstances, in which we find ourselves; for nothing requires a more close Attention than Trade, it being subject to continual Fluxes and Variations; and in consequence hereof, to frequent, if not daily, Alterations and Amendments.

Let us but attentively reflect on the History of the Trade in *England* and *France*, since the Establishment of this Republick; what Measures, both these Nations have concerted to make Trade flourish amongst them; what Progress they have made therein; and of what Prejudice, the same have been to our Commerce, more especially in *England*, which has given us the deepest and most fatal Wound; we shall then be obliged to confess, that were we only to sit still, and neglect the making some Regulations for the Benefit of our Trade, we should be in great Danger of perishing.

I

To

To which we shall add, the Measures lately taken in the *Netherlands*, to draw the Trade thither; and the almost incredible Expences they are at, only with a View to make Commerce flourish amongst them; and considering the Number of Ships which daily arrive at, and go out from *Ostend*, to and from all Parts of *Europe*, it will be astonishing to observe the sudden Progress Trade has made there since the Peace.

These are Novelties, which tend to the manifest Detriment of the Republick, and therefore require new Regulations. Whoever reflects on these Consequences, must be obliged to confess, that there ought to be no Hindrance or Obstacle in the Way, but what should be endeavoured, to be removed and overcome, with an united Strength and Vigour.

The same Remarks hold good of *Dunkirk*, *Hamburgh*, *Bremen*, *Lubeck*, *Altona*, all *Denmark*, and several other Cities, as well as Countries, contiguous to the Eastern Sea, which all apply themselves with great Success to Trade, and omit nothing to allure it to them, by granting, to that End, all possible Advantages thereto; that a foreign Merchant may find a greater Profit, by fetching the Commodities he wants from thence, than from *Holland*, where there are generally such heavy Duties payable thereon.

Particularly remarkable has been the Progress of the Trade of the City of *Hamburgh*;
nor

nor less observable, that of the Kingdom of *Denmark*, for some Years past.

It is computed, that the Ships which sailed for *Cadiz* in the last Year 1750, where Thirty-six and upwards; and that whereas in former Times, very few Ships came to *Copenhagen*, no less than Six Hundred trading Vessels arrived there, in the Course of that Year; which, in its Consequences, needs must be extremely dangerous to us, and exceedingly alarm us: For should the *Danes* go on in such a Manner, they will make themselves entire Masters of the *East Sea Trade*.

These again are Novelties that challenge our most serious Attention, and ought to render us regardless of encountering those lesser Difficulties, which will be the Spring of Mischief infinitely greater to us, if they should prevent the proposed Redress from taking place.

When Trade has once absolutely altered its Course, it would be fruitless Labour to endeavour the bringing it to flow in the same Current back again upon us: The Fate of the *Hanse Towns*, and other trading Nations, may convince us of the Impossibility to recover Trade, being established in some other Place.

The dismal Consequences which would attend a further Decline of Trade, are the more to be apprehended in a Country, constituted like ours; where the Decay of it, must needs occasion a sudden and immediate Wreck of the whole Structure tumbling into Ruins: For, if we consider, that the major Part, and principal

Inhabitants of this Republick, consist of Merchants, Artizans, Mechanicks, Fishermen, Owners of Shipping, and of such whose whole Dependance doth arise from thence; it inevitably follows, that when the general Ruin of a Country happens, these Men can easily remove their Goods, Ships, Arts, and Handicrafts, to other Places, and there occupy the same Professions. The principal, at least, if not the only Knot, that binds and fastens these Inhabitants to this Country and Republick, is Interest, and the Means to get a good Subsistence, and an affluent Fortune, which here they have in more abundance, than any where besides: These Ties once loosened or dissolved, there will no Remedy be left, for the retaining them in this Republick, but they will be forced to quit it, and to settle themselves in other Countries; where, over and above, they would not fail of meeting with all suitable Encouragement from neighbouring Princes.

But in this Respect, it is quite otherwise circumstanced in those Countries, where the chief Riches of the Inhabitants consist in landed and immoveable Estates: When any Misfortune befalls such a Country, the carrying off their Effects is a Thing impracticable; and therefore they are not so easily reduced to the Extremity of leaving the Country, especially, as they would find no Way to subsist, on their arrival in strange Places. The Heart of a true *Dutchman* must be pierced with Horrour, Perplexity, and Anguish, and he must shudder at the

the Prospect, when he seriously considers and reflects on those impending Dangers that threaten the Republick; if no considerable and effectual Relief be given (and that too, with the utmost Expedition and Dispatch) to our Trade, which is the main Support of the greatest Part of our Inhabitants: For when the Evil once is epidemical, and so far spread, that the Merchants gradually retire into foreign Countries, the putting then a Stop to it will be entirely ineffectual. In short, Trade is to the Republick, what the first Link is to a Chain; which breaking, the whole Chain, with all its Appendages, must fall to the Ground at once.

Nothing remains then to be done, for the preserving this Republick, but to make Use of some new Means that shall be clear, explicit, speedy, and effectual, for the redressing of Trade; and a limited Free Port alone is such a Remedy.

We are now drove to the last Extremity, and the Waters risen to such a Heighth, as to touch our very Lips: And whatever Obstacles and Difficulties may possibly occur, in the Plan proposed, surely they would not prove of such a dangerous Consequence in the Execution, as would be equal to the sad Dilemma and Distress, in which the whole Republick must be plunged, if it continues any longer in a State of Inactivity.

From whence we would conclude, that, readily admitting the Proposals to be in some Degree

Degree perplexed and intricate; yet, as the Question turns not upon this Concession, but whether they are requisite for the Redress of Trade; if they shall be found necessary to that End, then to prefer what is most eligible, either by making use of our utmost Efforts, to carry a difficult Scheme into Execution; or to leave the Situation of our Trade unremedied, to fall without Redress, into a more visible Decay; the Consequences whereof, to expatiate upon further, is entirely needless.

Our Intention in this Dissertation was, only to point out the Means by which our Trade in general might be relieved and restored to its former flourishing Condition; without entring, at present, into a Discussion of every Branch thereof, in particular, such as the Commerce with *France, England, Spain, Portugal, Italy,* and the *Levant*; including, over and above, the Trade in the *North, Sweden, Muscovy, Denmark, Norway, the East Sea, and Germany,* to the *East and West-Indies*, and on the Coast of *Africa*. All these different Branches ought to be seperately treated of, and inquired into, in what Condition they formerly stood, how situated now, and what is to be done, to support and recover such of them, as are any ways already fallen to Decay; and to prevent the others, which remain in a thriving State, from suffering any Prejudice.

Our Fabricks likewise will require a more narrow Scrutiny and close Inspections; in order, as attentively as possible, to trace the Sources
from

from whence the general Decay, in the several Branches thereof, arises.

The surest Way to come at the most proper Means of Redress, for amending, increasing, recovering, and extending the former flourishing State of our Manufactures, will be; to enquire severally into them, with a minute Nicety and Exactness, and to examine those who are therein employed; in order to put our Merchants into a Condition to make their Appearance again, at all the Marts of *Europe*, and to dispute their Ground with every other Nation.

We have, in this Proposal, insisted only, in general, on an Indulgence towards Navigation, and those concerned in Shipping, without entering here into the Particulars, how the same should be effected.

All these Matters will make the Subject of a separate Essay, abstracted from the present Dissertation, which only considers Trade, with all its different Branches, summarily, and under one general Head. When once this Plan shall be approved, the further Dispositions may be attempted in their Course, and will then meet with no Obstruction.

Then too will be the Time for a considering in what Manner to increase and to extend our general Commerce throughout all the Parts of *Europe*, by an Application to foreign Courts out of the Republick, and to chuse those Remedies, that are most likely to succeed.

We

We have omitted likewise, to enlarge on some Grievances which were mentioned in the Beginning of this Dissertation, as the Cause of our declining Trade ; not that we esteem them of small Importance, but as they are no proper Subjects of Deliberation, until the most essential Parts of this Plan shall have been approved.

We have also declined the mentioning a better Protection of our Trade, since such Protection cannot be expected, till the Affairs of the Admiralty are put on a better Footing ; and this it would be fruitless to attempt, till proper Regulations shall be made, tending to redress its present Situation.

In short, these Proposals are only to be looked upon as the first and most perplexing Step, in order to advance some further Steps hereafter, and at last attain to the main Point in View, of rendering this Country again rich, happy, flourishing, and powerful, as heretofore it has been seen.

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Letter A.

*LIST of such Goods as are proposed
to be entred Free of Duties.*

Earthen Pots and melting Pots.	Coffee Berries.
Clay for Pipes, Pots, and Fuller's Earth.	Corall, Red and Glafs
Red Lead for writing.	Corall.
Allum.	Copperas.
Amber.	Liquorice.
Ashes, Pot-ashes, and Weed-ashes.	Tarras unground.
Bay-berries.	Gauls.
Vanilles.	Linen Yarn to weave or twist.
Beaver Wool and Skins.	Cotton Yarn not dyed.
Smalts.	Turkey Yarn ditto.
Tin Plates.	Hair or Wool of Kids, Goats and Camels.
Borax unrefined.	Broken or ground Glafs
Bristles, Hogs ditto.	Gum Arabick.
Cocoa.	Ditto Seneca.
Cards for Spinning and their Appurtenances.	Gold and Silver Materials for Coining, and broken Gold or Silver Ware.
Ditto of Iron Wire.	Litherge.
Calamus.	Human Hair.
Capers.	All sorts of Hair, including the Maines and Tails of Horses,
Cotton Wool unspun.	
Caviare.	
Cocheneal.	

K

Herrings

Herrings of all Denominations caught by our Countrymen.

Rozen.

Hemp of all sorts.

Hops.

{ Cargoes of Wood from Abroad.

NB { Floats of Wood coming down the Rivers.

NB This Article ought to be fully explained by Persons experienced in this Trade.

All sorts of Dying Wood of what Denomination soever, not ground.

Walnut-tree and all other Wood for curious Workmanship.

Indico of all sorts.

Iron Salt Pans and cast Pots.

Cast Plates, Furnaces and Iron Weights.

Iron in Bars, small or large.

Russia Iron.

Iron and Steel Wire.

Old Pieces of hammered or cast Iron. Steel.

Copper, wrought or unwrought, and Copper Money.

Copper Basons and Kettles as they come from the Mills.

Mixt Metal, broken Copper Pots, and Remnants of Copper.

Copper Wire.

Lattin.

Smyrna Coperas.

Salted Hides.

Dryed Hydes.

Undressed Buffalos, Elks, Deers, Goats, and Kid Skins,

Cordivants, *Russia*, and *Spanish* Leather.

Sheep Skins in or out of the Wool, undressed.

Lamb and Calves Skins in the Wool or Hair, undressed.

All sorts of Furrs in the Hair or Wool.

Paper Rags.

Linen of all sorts.

Damask

Damask Table Linen,
Napkins, &c.

White Callicoes of all
forts.

Mullins, &c.

Laces of Thread, wove
or work'd.

Red Lead Earth.

Elephants Teeth.

Oil of Olives.

Olives.

Orchall.

Roucou.

Pitch.

Pens and Quills.

Quick-Silver.

Safflower.

Saffron.

Salt Petre.

All sorts of raw and
unwrought Silks.

Florettes.

The Waste and Nests
of Silk.

Sweet Wood.

Bay and other Salt.

White Ashes used in
Glat and Soap.

Verdigrease.

Spices of all sorts im-
ported by the *East-Indi-*
dia Company's Ships.

Fire Stones.

Succades or Sweetmeats

Sugar of all sorts, ex-
cept Loaf Sugar and
Sugar-candy.

Shumack.

Brimstone unrefined.

Tarr.

Turpentine.

Tin, not manufactured.

Prunes.

Stock-Fish.

Ifonglass.

Raw Flax.

Wax.

Argol.

Wool of all sorts and
Denominations.

Weld or Woad.

Letter B:

LIST of Duties proposed to be paid
on the following Goods, at Impor-
tation.

Arthen Ware of all sorts, except melting and other Pots, for every hundred Guilders		Guil.		
Value	— — — — —	5	0	0
Starch, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds	—	4	0	0
Amunition of War, Swords, &c. mounted, <i>per</i> hundred Guilders				
Value	— — — — —	5	0	0
not mounted	— — —	2	0	0
Muskets mounted, <i>per</i> Piece	—	0	5	0
not mounted	— — —	0	1	0
Pistols, as above	— — — —	0	2	8
not mounted	— — — —	0	0	8
Gunpowder, <i>per</i> hundred Weight	—	4	0	0
Iron Bullets, Bombs, Granades, <i>per</i> hundred Weight	— — —	0	1	0
Leaden Bullets	— — — —	0	2	0
Iron Guns and Mortars	— —	0	3	0
Mettal ditto	— — — — —	2	10	0
Matches	— — — — —	0	3	0
Old Iron Shot, <i>per</i> thousand Weight		0	3	0
Onion and all other Garden Seeds, <i>per</i> hundred Weight	— —	1	10	0
Canary Seeds	— — — —	0	12	0
Foreign				

Foreign Anchovies, <i>per</i> Barrel of Guil.				
fix Hundred	— — — —	0	8	0
Almonds long, one Guilder, short				
twelve Stivers, in Shells ten				
Stivers, and Pricks five Stivers	—			
Apples, Pears, Turnips, &c. <i>per</i>				
hundred Guilders Value	— —	8	0	0
Anniseed	— — — —			
Oranges, Lemons, &c. Nuts, Wal-				
nuts, Hazle-nuts, Chesnuts, <i>per</i>				
hundred Guilders Value	— —	3	10	0
Syder, <i>per</i> Hogshead	— — —	1	5	0
Ditto, from <i>France</i> , <i>per</i> Cask	—	1	0	0
Vinegar, Wine Vinegar, <i>per</i> Cask of				
four Hogsheads	— — —	2	8	0
Beer, Vinegar, the great Tun of four				
Anchors	— — — —	7	4	0
Whalebone of foreign catching, <i>per</i>				
hundred Guilders Value	— —	3	0	0
Cut Whalebone	— — — —	6	0	0
Oxen, Cows, &c. <i>per</i> Head	— —	20	0	0
Sheep, &c.	— — — —	0	12	0
Hogs, in the Month specified	—	0	10	0
Foreign Beer, <i>per</i> Barrel	— —	1	0	0
Spruce Beer ditto	— — — —	1	5	0
<i>English</i> Red Herrings, <i>per</i> Last of				
twelve Thousand	— — —	7	10	0
<i>English</i> Sprats, <i>per</i> Last of twenty				
Bundles in Straw	— — —	2	0	0
<i>Maaſterland</i> and other dryed Her-				
rings, <i>per</i> Last of twelve Thou-				
sand	— — — —	7	10	0
Borax refined, <i>per</i> hundred Weight		4	0	0
			<i>French</i>	

<i>French Butter, per hundred Pounds</i>	Guil.		
suttle Weight — — — —	0	10	0
All other foreign Butter, for three			
hundred Pounds suttle Weight—	6	0	0
Cables and other Ropes ready-made,			
the hundred Pounds — —	5	0	0
Cable Yarn, ditto — — —	3	0	0
Canvas or Sail-cloth, for every fifty			
Ells — — — — —	0	10	0
Cummin Seed, per hundred Weight	0	10	0
Carpets or Horse-cloths, per Piece	0	2	0
Currants, per hundred Weight —	0	12	0
Dimities, per hundred Guilders Value	1	0	0
Small Raisins, per hundred Weight	0	6	0
Pomice Stone ground, per Ton —	0	6	0
Virmillion, per hundred Weight —	3	0	0
Yarn dyed of all sorts, sewing			
Thread, per one hundred Guilders			
Value — — — — —	2	10	0
White sewing Thread, per hundred			
Weight — — — — —	5	0	0
Woollen and Worsted Yarn, raw			
and not dyed, per hundred			
Weight — — — — —	1	0	0
Ditto dyed — — — — —	6	0	0
Turkey Yarn dyed, per hundred			
Weight — — — — —	4	0	0
Packthread, per hundred Weight—	1	0	0
Glass, Window Glass from <i>France</i> ,			
and elsewhere, per Basket —	0	10	0
Ditto from the <i>East-Country</i> , per			
Chest — — — — —	0	3	0

Ginger

	Guil.
Ginger, <i>per</i> hundred Weight —	0 3 0
All cut Window-glass, Drinking-glasses of one hundred Guilders Value	3 0 0
All Looking-glass, made up Looking-glasses, of one hundred Guilders Value — — — —	5 0 0
Wrought Gold and Silver Plate not broke, of a hundred Guilders Value	2 0 0
Gold and Silver Thread, true or counterfeit, ditto — — — —	2 0 0
Gold and Silver Lace, whole or open, &c. ditto — — — —	2 0 0
Leaf Gold and Silver in little Books, of one hundred Guilders Value —	2 0 0
Gold and Silver Leather, <i>per</i> hundred Leaves — — — —	5 0 0
Corn, Wheat, <i>per</i> Last — — — —	3 0 0
Rye — — — —	2 0 0
Barly — — — —	1 10 0
Malt — — — —	2 10 0
Oats — — — —	1 0 0
Buck-Wheat — — — —	4 0 0
Seal and other Fish-skins, <i>per</i> hundred — — — —	2 0 0
Linseed, Hemp-feed, Turnip-feed, and Cabbage Seed, <i>per</i> Last —	1 10 0
Pease, Beans, and Vetches — —	2 10 0
Pearl Barley, <i>per</i> hundred Weight	0 1 0
Guiney Grain, <i>per</i> hundred Weight	1 0 0
Perukes or Curls, of the Value of a hundred Guilders — — —	5 0 0
Hare or Coney-skins, <i>per</i> hundred Weight — — — —	1 0 0
	Hams

Hams smoaked, from <i>France</i> , <i>per</i>	Guil.		
hundred Weight — — —	1	12	0
Ditto from all other Places, <i>per</i> Ship			
Pound — — — — —	4	10	0
Marble Blocks and Floor Stones, of			
a hundred Guilders Value —	3	0	0
Hemp dressed, <i>per</i> Ship Pound —	4	0	0
Cakes of, beaten Hemp-feed, <i>per</i>			
Thousand — — — — —	4	12	0
Hats, of the Value of a hundred			
Guilders — — — — —	4	0	0
Straw Hats ditto — — — — —	2	0	0
Hay, of the Value of a hundred			
Guilders — — — — —	6	0	0
Wood, Sawed-wood, without inclu-			
ding Deals, Balcks, and Oars, of			
a hundred Guilders — — —	6	0	0
Fire Wood, Wickes, Hoops, Twigs			
and Osiers, of a hundred Guil-			
ders Value — — — — —	10	0	0
Fire Wood, coming by the Rivers			
or by Land, of a hundred Guilders	8	0	0
Ditto, by Sea, of a hundred Guilders	3	0	0
All dressed Hides of all Denomi-			
nations, of a hundred Guilders —	4	0	0
Iron Anchors, <i>per</i> thousand Pounds	1	10	0
Ditto Nails and Spikes, <i>per</i> thou-			
sand Pounds — — — — —	2	10	0
Ditto, Pans, Spoons, Pots, &c. <i>per</i>			
Hundred Pounds — — — — —	0	4	0
Knives, Scissors, Needles, and Files,			
of the Value of a hundred Guilders	3	0	0
			All

All other wrought Iron and Steel				Gail.
Works of the Value of one				
hundred Guilders	—	—	—	6 0 0
Candles of Tallow and Grease, <i>per</i>				
hundred Pounds	—	—	—	1 10 0
Ditto of Wax	—	—	—	5 0 0
Cheese of <i>French</i> making, <i>per</i> hun-				
dred Pounds	—	—	—	1 4 0
Ditto, foreign of all sorts, <i>per</i> hun-				
dred Pounds	—	—	—	2 0 0
Chalk, <i>per</i> Hood of ten Barrels	—			0 6 0
Combs of Ivory, Box-wood, &c. of				
the Value of one hundred Guil-				
ders	—	—	—	5 0 0
Cakes of Turnip, Hemp and Lin-				
feed, <i>per</i> thousand Pieces	—			4 12 0
Coals, Wood or Charcoal, <i>per</i> Ton				0 1 0
Smiths Coals, <i>per</i> Hood	—	—		0 3 0
Ditto <i>Scotch</i> Luyks and Roer, <i>per</i>				
hundred Weight	—	—	—	1 0 0
Copper Plates, round or square, <i>per</i>				
hundred Pounds	—	—	—	0 5 0
Copper Sconces, Candlesticks, and				
all unmade Copper Work, <i>per</i>				
hundred Pounds	—	—	—	6 0 0
Stockings of Wool, Yarn, Silk,				
Gloves and Caps, <i>per</i> hundred				
Guilders	—	—	—	2 0 0
Orchel, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds	—			0 15 0
Tiftanys, Crapes and Gauſes, <i>per</i>				
hundred Guilders	—	—	—	3 0 0

L

Ribbons

All

				Guil.
Ribbons of Silk, Worsted, Wool,				
Yarn, or Cotton, mix'd with				
Gold or not, <i>per</i> hundred Guil-				
ders	—	—	—	2 0 0
Lead Bullets, and Shot included,				
<i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight	—			0 2 0
White Lead, Glue, <i>per</i> hundred				
Pounds Weight	—	—	—	0 10 0
All sorts of ready-made Linen, <i>per</i>				
hundred Guilders Value	—	—		2 0 0
Printed or painted Callicoes, <i>per</i>				
hundred Guilders Value	—			
All strip'd, spotted, flower'd or in				
any manner colour'd Callicoes,				
without Distinction, Nillaes				
included, ditto	—	—	—	2 0 0
Foreign Bed Ticks, <i>per</i> hundred				
Guilders Value	—	—	—	2 0 0
Pruants, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight				0 2 0
Carpets, work'd or painted	—	—		1 10 0
Figs, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight				0 5 0
Tripes, or Fustians, <i>per</i> Piece of				
forty Ells	—	—	—	2 0 0
Gauze for Flags	—	—	—	0 6 0
All sorts of Silk Stuffs, with Gold				
or without	—	—	—	2 0 0
All Woollen Manufactures, Cloth,				
&c. mix'd, white or undy'd	—			2 0 0
Madder, fine and crop, <i>per</i> hun-				
dred Pounds Weight	—	—		1 10 0
Ordinary, or Gemeen	—			1 0 0
Mull	—	—	—	0 10 0
				Mead

Mead, *per* Cask or Aum of four Guil.

Anchors — — — — — 1 0 0

Oil of round or flat Seeds, *per* Aum 9 0 0

Paper of all sorts, except blue, *per*
hundred Reams, each Ream.

worth above two Guilders — 10 0 0

Under the Value of two Guil-

ders *per* Ream— — — 3 0 0

Blue ditto, *per* hundred Reams,

small size— — — — — 15 0 0

Ditto, large size — — — — — 20 0 0

China Ware from the *East-Indies* 1 0 0

Foreign Pepper, *per* hundred Pounds

Weight — — — — — 2 10 0

Rice, *per* hundred Pounds Weight 0 6 0

Pickled Salmon, *per* great Tun of

four Anchors — — — — — 0 10 0

Smoak'd and dry'd Salmon, *per* hun-

dred Guilders Value— — — 2 0 0

Bark and Ouse for Tanners, *per*

Hood of ten Tons, unground — 5 0 0

Ground — — — — — 7 0 0

Green or common Soap, *per* Barrel 3 0 0

Spanish, French and Italian Soap,

per hundred Pounds Weight, al-

lowing for Tare fourteen *per Cent.* 0 10 0

Silk for marking, sewing and stitch-

ing, *per* Pound— — — — — 0 2 0

Luneburgs, and all sorts of boil'd

and refin'd white Salt, *per* hun-

dred — — — — — 150 0 0

All burnt Bricks and Stones, *per*

hundred Guilders Value — — 8 0 0

White

White Loaf Sugar, white and brown	Gill			
Sugar Candy, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds				
Weight — — — — —	2	10	0	
Syrup, <i>per</i> Pot of fifty Pounds —	0	12	0	
Malasses, or Syrup of Sugar, coming from <i>France</i> , <i>per</i> hundred Pounds				
Weight — — — — —	1	0	0	
Refin'd Brimstone, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight — — — — —	1	10	0	
<i>Varinas</i> Tobacco, spun, <i>per</i> hun- dred Pounds Weight — — — — —	2	0	0	
<i>Brazil</i> ditto — — — — —	0	10	0	
Cut ditto — — — — —	0	10	0	
All other spun Tobacco, <i>per</i> hun- dred Pounds — — — — —	5	0	0	
Tobacco in the Leaf by Sea, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds — — — — —	0	4	0	
Ditto, along the Rivers — — — — —	1	0	0	
Snuff, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight	1	0	0	
Tea, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight	1	0	0	
Manufactured Tin, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight — — — — —	5	0	0	
Cables, Ropes, and all ready-made Cordage, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight — — — — —	5	0	0	
Yarn for Cables and other Cordage	3	0	0	
Train Oil imported in foreign Ships, and of foreign fishing, <i>per</i> Car- rateel of two small Barrels —	1	10	0	
All foreign fresh Sea Fish, <i>per</i> hun- dred Guilders Value — — — — —	3	0	0	
Lobsters, <i>per</i> hundred Pieces —	0	9	0	
				Foreign

Foreign Salt-Fish of all Denomi- nations, Herrings, Cod, Ling, &c.	Guil.
<i>per</i> Last of twelve Barrels — — — —	18 0 0
All dry'd Fish, <i>per</i> hundred Guil- ders Value — — — —	4 0 0
Dress'd Flax, <i>per</i> hundred Pounds Weight — — — —	4 0 0
Wine, Rhenish, <i>per</i> Vooder of eight Aums — — — —	8 0 0
<i>French, per</i> Tun of four Hogsheads — — — —	3 0 0
<i>Naples</i> — — — —	3 0 0
<i>Spanish, Canary, Muscadello,</i> <i>&c.</i> — — — —	6 0 0
<i>Portugal</i> Wine, <i>per</i> Tat of twenty- four Anchors — — — —	3 0 0
Brandy, and Spirits distill'd of Brandy, <i>per</i> Hogshead of thirty Quarters, or six Anchors —	1 10 0
Brandy and Spirits distill'd of Malt or other Grain, <i>per</i> Hogshead of thirty Quarters — — — —	30 0 0
All fine distill'd Waters, <i>per</i> hun- dred Guilders Value — —	6 0 0

Letter

Letter C.

LIST of Goods proposed to be prohibited from being imported and exported.

*Not to be imported into
this Country.*

Lean or fatted Hogs except in the Months of *April, May, June, July,* and *August*, only.

Flour of Wheat or Rye.
Oatmeal and other Grain ground.

Biskets of all sorts, or hard baked Bread.

Ground, broken or rasped.

Dying Wood of all Denominations.

Plates for Copper Money.

NB. All dyed Manufactures whatsoever, except such as are only to pass through or have a Drawback.

Dust of Spices.

NB. Meat killed Abroad, and all sorts of Sausages, unless it be to pass through or to have the Drawback, not including Bacon and smoak'd Hams.

Woollen Blankets and Coverlids.

*Not to be exported from
this Country.*

All sorts of Amunition for War, not to be exported without Licence.

Herring Barrels, or Staves prepared for making Barrels and half Barrels for Herrings.

Hoops, or Wood partly or wholly appropriated to making Hoops.

Rags for making of Paper.

Nets and other Fishing Tackle, as well old as new.

Dust of Spices.

Turf without Leaves.

Tools and Tackle for the Whale Fishery.

The Kream or Mother of Mead.

Pickles.

DRAFT

DRAFT of an Ordinance concerning
the Goods that are to have a Free
Passage.

I.

NOT only all the Goods coming from, or going to the *Austrian, Brabant, and Flanders*, shall enjoy the Benefit of this Free Passage; but also the Goods coming from all other Countries, out of the Jurisdiction of this State, and going through this Country to other Countries and Places, likewise out of our Dominions, without Distinction, whether the same come in by Sea or by Land, or along the Rivers; or whether the same go out again by Sea or by Land, or along the Rivers, excepting only such Goods as are, or may hereafter be prohibited from being exported: And in all Cases, without Prejudice to the Rights of the *West-India* Company, and their taking Cognizance of the Goods and Merchandizes, which are the Produce of, and going to, or coming from the Countries and Places, lying within the Limits of their Charter; which must be exempted, as well from the Benefit of the Free Port, as from the Advantage of this Free Passage.

No

II.

No Duties shall be levied on the Importation and Exportation of the Goods so passing through.

III.

All Goods imported by Sea, that are intended for passing through, shall be declared, as such, by the Merchant, at the first Office, where they shall be unloaded.

IV.

In the same Note must be set down the Places from whence the said Goods come, as also the Marks and Numbers with which each Piece, Pack, Bale, Cask, Chest, Case, and Baskets, are marked.

V.

That the Importer shall be fined in the Penalty of fifty Guilders for each Pack, Bale, Cask, Chest, Box, or Hamper, &c. which he shall not declare the Marks or Numbers of, or which he shall declare falsely; for which Penalty, the Goods themselves shall be liable to a Seizure.

VI.

The Officers of the Country shall not give any Permit for Goods to pass through, other than such

such as are reported for that Purpose, by the Merchant in his Note.

VII.

The Officers must, pursuant to the Note, on Entry, mention in the Permit to be made out, the Places from whence the Goods come, as also the said Marks and Numbers, under the Penalty of fifty Guilders for each Permit not so made out.

VIII.

Before the sending away of these Goods, the Merchant shall, by a Note under his own Hand-writing, take out a Passport outwards, for the Goods so to pass through; and set down the Place, for which they are designed, on the said Note, and by what Ships, Waggon, or Carts, they are to be carried, with the Names of the Captains, Waggoners, and Carmen.

IX.

All these Particulars must accordingly be expressed, by the Officers of the Country, in the said Passport outwards.

X.

No Goods shall enjoy the Benefit of this Free Passage, other than such Goods, for which the Permits and Passports shall be taken out in manner afore-mentioned.

M

All

XI.

All Goods that shall be declared for passing through as aforesaid, must be opened, in the first Office, under the Inspection, or in the Warehouses of the Admiralty: And the Merchant shall be at Liberty to take away such Part of them, as he shall think proper, on first paying the Duties for the same.

XII.

On sending away the Goods declared for passing through, a Mark shall be set on the same, by the Officers of the Admiralty, to distinguish them from other Goods that are not to pass through: After which, the Officer, on loading those Goods, shall cause the Captain to sign a Receipt, pursuant to the Form hereunto annexed; which Receipt shall be sent by the Admiralty to the Officer of the furthest Station, who shall there visit these Goods again, and exchange this Receipt with the Captain, for the Free Passport outwards, having first mentioned thereon, his having searched the said Goods as aforesaid.

I N. N. Master of the Ship - - - -
 bound to - - - - do acknowledge to have received on board my
 Ship, of N. N. the following Goods
 - - - - -
 - - - - - which I undertake
 and

and promise (if God grant me a safe Voyage) to carry to - - - - without unloading the same, or any Part thereof, out of my Ship, in this Country, under the Penalty of the full Value of the said Goods, which shall be found to be unloaded out of my Ship in this Country : And moreover, I oblige myself to exchange this with the Officer at the furthest Station, for the Free Passport of the like Tenor ; which, on signing hereof, shall be delivered me, by the Officer of the Admiralty : To the Performance whereof, I bind myself, and my Estate, and especially my said Ship, &c.

XIII.

The Goods declared for a Free Passage shall, before they are unloaded, be searched by the Officers ; and must, in their Presence, and under their Directions, be re-shipp'd, or lodged in their Warehouses.

XIV.

The Goods which shall be landed, before they are searched, shall be confiscated.

XV.

The Goods declared, as designed to pass through, shall enjoy this Privilege for the Space of four Months, and no longer ; but in case the Merchant shall desire a Prolongation

of this Time, he must apply to the College of Admiralty in whose District the Office shall be.

XVI.

In case any Prolongation be allowed, the same shall be endorsed on the Back of the Passport, and no Fees or Duties shall be paid for the same.

XVII.

If the Merchant shall be desirous to make any Alteration in the Place, for which the Goods are designed; or in the furthest Station, through which the same are to be exported; or in the Ship, Waggon or Cart, whereby the Exportation shall be made, he shall be obliged to give Notice thereof at the Office, where the Licence and Passport had been made out, where the same shall be specified by the Officers of the Country.

XVIII.

In case the Goods on Exportation shall be obliged, before they pass the furthest Station, to be shipped or loaded on another Ship, Waggon, or Cart, from those, by which they were carried from the Place where they were first landed; such re-shipping or reloading must be done in the Presence of the Officers, and the same, together with the Name of the Captain, Waggoner, or Carman of the Cart Waggon, or Ship, on which the same shall be loaded, to be endorsed on the Passport of Free Passage,

Passage, by the Officer of the Country, at the Office of the Place where they shall be re-shipped or re-loaded.

XIX.

And for want of the Endorsements, mentioned in the two foregoing Articles, the Goods shall be stopt at the furthest Station, and accordingly confiscated.

XX.

The Goods declared for passing through, to be visited and searched by the Officers of the Country, by the Permit and Free Passport, not only at the Place where they are first landed, but also at the several Stations they shall pass, on their Way to the furthest Station, where they shall go out: The searching to be endorsed on the Free Passport, for which the Officers of the Country, at the intermediate Stations, between the first Landing-Place; and the furthest Station, shall have only two Stivers for each Passport; and the Goods that shall be found to have passed any of the Stations, without being so searched, shall be stopt at the furthest Station, and be confiscated.

XXI.

Goods declared for passing free at the first Office, that shall, on the Road, or at the furthest Station, be found to be one Sort instead of another; or falsely declared as to the Quantity,
Length

Length, Measure, Weight, or otherwise; not only the Goods, so fraudently or falsly declared, shall be forfeited, but also every Thing that shall be in the same Pack, Bale, Chest, Box, Sack, Cask, Vessel, Hamper, or other Package: Provided that the Quality and Quantity of the concealed or falsly declared Goods amount, at least, to the full Tenth Part of the Whole; and that the Goods so concealed, or falsly declared, do consist in such as are prohibited, or liable to pay Duties.

XXII.

Goods declared for passing through, that shall be found to be altered, between the Place where they were first landed, and the furthest Station, shall be confiscated: However, when this shall happen without the Knowledge of the Merchant, the Action of the Officers of the Country, to be confined to, and only affect those who shall have made the Alteration.

XXIII.

When the Captain, Waggoner, or Carman arrives at the furthest Station, he shall there solemnly make Oath before the Officers of the Country, that he hath not made any Alteration in the Goods mentioned in the Free Passport, nor opened any of the Casks, Bales, Chests, Boxes, &c. and that the same hath not been done by any other Person, to his Knowledge: And the said Officers of the Country are hereby authorized

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rized to administer such Oath. The Captain, Driver, or Carman shall, in case of Contravention, besides the Confiscation of the Goods afore-mentioned, be liable to a Forfeiture and Penalty of - - - - - for which the Ships, Waggons, Carts and Horses, shall be bound and seizable.

XXIV.

The Officers, at the furthest Station, shall, on the said Oath being made, and not otherwise, endorse on the Back of the Free Passport; that the Goods therein mentioned have passed the furthest Station, and are gone out of the Country: And that the Captain, Carman, or Driver, hath taken the said Oath before them; after which they shall return the said Permit and Free Passport to the Captain, Carman, or Driver, having first cancelled the same.

XXV.

The Officers, at the furthest Station, shall keep exact and regular Registers of all the Goods going out; and, to that End, shall register all Free Passports in a particular Register; and shall, every three Months, send a List extracted from thence, of all Free Passports by them registered, to the respective Offices where the said Free Passports were made out.

XXVI.

The Clerks of the Offices, where the Free Passports are made out, shall put on a particular

lar File the Passports that shall be returned to them ; together with the Lists of every three Months mentioned in the foregoing Article, and send them yearly with their Books to the Colleges of the Admiralty.

XXVII.

As to the Free Passage in and out of Goods, of a fat or greasy Kind, what is ordered in the fifth Article, at the End of the List of the 31st of July 1725, shall be observed.

XXVIII.

The Goods, that, according to the said Placart, are required to have a Permit from the Colleges of the Admiralty, shall not pass free, in or out, without such Licence.

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